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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

The Popular Songs of Ireland. Collected and edited, with Introductions and Notes, by T. Crofton Croker, Esq. 12mo. pp. 340. London, 1839. Colburn.

In this volume, friend Croker, like the potato formerly called by that name,* has shewn himself to be an Irish life-preserver. Some of his poets, like too many of the peasantry, must have perished, but for the succour he has afforded them; and though these poets are not like the peasants, the "finest" in the world, it is nevertheless a grateful and patriotic office to have saved them from—the bard's most deplorable doom—oblivion.

To have fully illustrated his subject, Mr. Croker ought to have given us many more ballads, and gone to an earlier date; but we presume that, as Opie said when advised to raise the price of his portraits from fifteen shillings to a guinea, "the public canna' bear it;" his publisher thought the public could not bear the infliction of two or three volumes of Irish verse. We must, therefore, be content as in other Irish matters, to take this by way of an instalment. Looking for what else we may get hereafter, we shall only report of the present collection, that it touches on many historical points from the period of the battle of the Boyne; and, in other respects, exhibits specimens of the national feeling and humour. It is true, that in consequence of the English connexion, it has been questioned whether Ireland possesses any peculiar features of this kind; but we think, after reading Mr. Croker's volume, it will be allowed that if not entirely original, such modifications have taken place as to give a very distinctive character to Irish productions. The local songs, especially, demonstrate this fact.

At all events, our author has subdivided his work into distinct national heads (*quare*, some of them broken?); for he has ranged them under the "Shillelah," "Whisky," "Potatoes," "The Shamrock," "St. Patrick," and other friends and patrons of the country. Which are the most religious, burlesque, sentimental, or humoros, it is difficult to decide. In spite of the authorities to the contrary, we have made up our minds that shamrocks are watercresses, just as whisky is, according to its native name, water; and St. Patrick not a gentleman, but an engineer or stoker, and the inventor of the steam-engine, the first that ever reached the shores of Bantry or Dublin Bay. With regard to the first of these matters, however, we are told:—

"The popular notion respecting the shamrock, or trefoil, is, that St. Patrick, by its means, satisfactorily explained to the early converts of Christianity in Ireland, the Trinity in

* "In a MS. among the 'Southwell Papers,' unfortunately without date but, from the contents, believed to have been written about 1640, potato-roots are called 'Crockers,' from having been first planted in Croker's field at Youghall. Possibly the spot mentioned by Lord Castlehaven, who, in his 'Memoirs,' states, that when he encamped with the Irish army before that town in 1645, he caused Major-General Butler to take up a position on the sea near Croker's works." Tradition also says, "that the potato-root, before being planted on Sir Walter Raleigh's ground at Youghall, was likewise planted on some land in the diocese of Tuam, which Sir Walter afterwards let to endow a school."

Unity; exhibiting the three leaves attached to one stalk as an illustration. Miss Beaufort remarks, that it is "a curious coincidence, the trefoil plant (*shamroc* and *shamrakh* in Arabic) having been held sacred in Iran, and considered emblematical of the Persian Triad."—(Collect. v. 118.) The botanical name of the shamrock, like that of the Scotch thistle, is a matter of dispute. Mr. Bicheno, in an amusing paper read before the Linnaean Society, has, with great ingenuity, endeavoured to shew that the wood-sorrel (*oxalis acetosella*) is the true shamrock; while Dr. Withering and Professor Rennie point out the white clover (*trifolium repens*); and Mr. London marks the black medick (*medicago lupulina*) as the genuine national emblem of Ireland. That the shamrock was formerly eaten in Ireland as a salad, there appears no reason to doubt. Fynes Moryson, the secretary of Queen Elizabeth's lord-deputy, Mountjoy, treating of the diet and customs of the "wild Irish," says, "they willingly eat the herb shamrock, being of a sharp taste, which, as they run and are chased to and fro, they snatch like beasts out of the ditches." Spenser, also, in his 'View of the State of Ireland,' describing the misery consequent upon the Desmond rebellion, of which he was an eye-witness, speaking of the wretched and famishing Irish, tells us that "if they found a plot of watercresses or shamrocks, there they flocked as to a feast for the time, yet not able long to continue there withal." But these passages, as referring to a period of national distress and famine consequent upon civil warfare, when, according to the authorities quoted, horse-flesh was a luxury, and even dead bodies were taken out of the graves and eaten, do not prove the use of the shamrock as a salad so satisfactorily as the following extract from the humorous poem of 'Hesperino-sographia,' descriptive of national manners, where, in the account of an Irish banquet, it is mentioned that,—

' Besides all this, vast bundles came
Of sorrel, more than I can name.
And many sheaves I hear there was
Of shamrocks, and of water-grass,
Which there for curious salads past.'

"In that whimsical poem, the 'Irish Hudibras,' printed in 1689, we find

' Springs, happy springs, adorned with sallies,
Which nature purpos'd for their palats;
Shamrogs and watercress she shews,
Which was both meat, and drink, and clothes.'

Again the Irish are there represented as

' Without a rag, trowsers, or brogues,
Picking of sorrel and sham-roges.'

Not wishing to have any thing to do with the shillelah, we shall treat our readers with a sample or proof of the whisky:—

"Were one to find fault with the whisky in the northern counties, the immediate reply would be, 'It's as good potee as any in Ulster, for it never paid a happ'eth of duty.' From 1802 to June 1806,—a space of four years and a half, no less than 13,439 unlicensed whisky-stills, 11,098 heads, and 9732 worms, were seized in Ireland. Some idea, therefore, of the magnitude of the traffic in potee may be formed by this official return. *

"The Glass of Whisky was originally printed in 'The Sentimental and Masonic

Magazine,' vol. iii. for December 1793, a Dublin periodical, remarkable from the first productions of the Muse of Moore having appeared therein. This song bears the signature W. P. C.—y, and was illustrated in that publication by an engraving, executed by W. P. Carey, probably the author, which represents an old man with clasped hands, uplifting a glass of whisky."

Ah! Time is a tell-tale! this is forty-six years ago; but our Anacreon wears well. Heaven grant it may be long before a grape-stone comes across his wesan; and may it be a funnel for many a bumper of wine, of the brightest hue, while he lingers and enjoys himself amongst us.

"At the side of the road, near the bridge of Drumcondra,
Was Murrough O'Monganhan stationed to beg;
He brought from the wars, as his share of the plunder.

A crack on the crown, and the loss of a leg.

"Och, Murrough!" he'd cry—"musha nothing may harm ye,

What made you go fight for a soldier on sea?

You fool, had you been a marine in the army,

You now have a pinchur and live on full pay.

But now I'm a cripple—what signifies thinking?

The past I can never bring round to the fore;

The heart that with old age and weakness is sinking,

Will ever find strength in good whisky galore.

Oagh, whisky, ma vurneen, my joy, and my jewel,

What signifies talking of doctors and pills?

Is sorrow, misfortune, and sickness so cruel,

A glass of north country can cure all our ills.

When cold in the winter, it warms you so hearty;

When hot in the summer, it cools you like ice;

Good whisky's my friend, and I take its advice.

When hungry and thirsty, 'tis meat and drink to me,

It finds me a lodging where I lie;

Neither frost, snow, nor rain, any harm can do me,

The hedge is my pillow, my blanket the sky.

Now merry be the Christmas! success to good neighbours!

Here's a happy new year, and a great many too!

With a plenty of whisky to lighten their labours,

May sweet luck attend every heart that is true!"

Poor Murrough, then joining his old hands together,

High held up the glass, while he vented this prayer:—

"May whisky, by sea or land in all weather,

Be never denied to the children of Care!"

Among the songs of feeling, "The Court of Cahirass," though very unequal, as most of these compositions are (so many, indeed, as to be a part of their characteristic style), has pleased us much by such verses as the following. Of the heroine is sung:—

"On a fine summer's morning, if you saw but this maiden,
By the murmuring Maig, or the green fields she stray'd in;
Or through groves full of song, near that bright flowing river,

You'd think how imperfect the praise that I give her.

In order arranged are her bright flowing tresses,
The thread of the spider their fineness expresses;*

And softer her cheek, that is mantled with blushes,

Than the drift of the snow, or the pulp of the rushes.

But her bosom of beauty, that the heart which lies under,

Should have nothing of womanlike pride, is my wonder;

That the charms which all eyes daily dwell on delighted,

Should seem in her own of no worth, and be slighted.

When Charity calls her she never is weary,

Though in secret she comes with the step of a fairy;

To the sick and the needy profuse is her bounty,

And her goodness extends through the whole of the country.

I felt on my spirit a load that was weighty,
In the stillness of midnight, and called upon Kately;

And a dull voice replied, on the ear of the sleeper,

"Death! death!" in a tone that was deep, and grew deeper.

* "The verse of an Irish song, in which the poet describes the first meeting with his mistress, was thus translated to the editor by Mr. Edward Penrose:—

"Her hair was of the finest gold,

Like to a spider's spinning;

In her, methinks, I do behold

My joys and woes beginning."

Twas an omen to me—'twas an omen of sadness,
That told me of folly, of love, and of madness;
That my fate was as dark as the sky that was o'er me,
And bade me despair, for no hope was before me."

We must add a humorous ditty by way of contrast:—

"The ballad mentioned very glibly runs on in praise of the springs of Mallow, according to this fashion, to the air of 'Ballyspellen,'

'All you that are
Both lean and bare,
With scarce an ounce of tallow,
To make your flesh
Look plump and fresh,
Come, drink the spring at Mallow
For all that you
Are bound to do
Is just to gape and swallow;
You'll find by that
You'll rowl in fat,
Most gloriously at Mallow!
Or, if love's pain
Disturbs your brain,
And make your reason shallow,
To shake it off,
Gulp down enough
Of out hot springs at Mallow!'

A long poem on the "Entrenchment of New Ross," of the middle of the thirteenth century, and translated into modern verse by the lamented L. E. L., ought to be pointed out to notice, as also a curious letter of the "Maior of Waterford," of the time of Henry VII.; but to these we can only refer.

In the hunting song, page 225, we should suspect the "five couple of *terriers*" at the bush of the fox to be *harrises*; but there are so many strange things in Ireland, that perhaps they do hunt with packs of Scotch wiries. At any rate, they are good for Reynard if he gets into his hole!!

The Private Journal of Aaron Burr, during his Residence of Four Years in Europe; with Selections from his Correspondence. Edited by Matthew L. Davis, author of "Memoirs of Aaron Burr," &c. 2 vols. 8vo. New York, 1838. Harper and Brothers. London, Wiley and Putnam.

"GIVE a dog an ill name and hang him," says the adage. Call an American Aaron Burr, and destroy him, might be said of the personage who figures in these volumes. Whether Burr was what one would call in extremes a good or a bad man, a patriot or a traitor, it is not in our power to determine. Were we to form an estimate of his character from the revelations in these pages only, we should consider him as much sinned against as sinning, and of that human mixture in which the better nature predominated over the worse parts. That he was a man of mystery, intrigue, and vanity, is obvious enough; but these defects are redeemed by many traits of right, gentle, and affectionate feelings. Since the "Confessions of Jean Jacques Rousseau," we have seen no picture of an individual drawn by himself that has interested us a tithe so much as this Journal has done. It furnishes a study for mankind. We see a person possessed of the highest talents, and stored with most extensive information, driven from his country, embarked in schemes of the greatest national and personal importance, suspected and watched wherever he goes, exiled from England, and not permitted to leave France, struggling with poverty and privation, mixing with the first men in society whilst nearly starving at his miserable home, vibrating between the palace and the pawn-shop; from meeting dukes, ministers, and distinguished people, retiring to his meagre fare with a single son in his pocket; sanguine, disappointed, courted, persecuted, intriguing with statesmen and women of every estate—

in short, running a career of the most extraordinary variety and inequality, yet always preserving an equanimity, courage, perseverance, and unruffled temper, which plenty, and every means of happiness and luxury, can seldom ensure to their fortunate possessors.

His journal, which exhibits these traits in a manner to us, as we have noticed, of strange and peculiar interest, was kept for his daughter, Mrs. Alston; and in this respect is not the least remarkable, for it goes into many things, of which no one could conceive a father would ever wish a daughter to have the slightest notion. And such a daughter! She was proud of, and deeply attached to, her parent: proud of, and deeply attached, might every parent be to such a child as her correspondence shews her to have been. We never read any female letters so beautiful, so sensible, so touching. Mind and heart seem to have been alike perfect in this noble creature. Even for her sake, we could not think so harshly as we otherwise might of her father's errors; but he was unfortunate also—another claim to our pity and compassion. He was often penniless, and, need we add, had few friends.

Aaron Burr, it is generally known, after filling the highest office but one in the United States, and being very nearly elected president, killed Mr. Hamilton in a duel, in pursuing which his vindictiveness brought upon him almost universal censure. Falling from his high position, he made an attempt upon the territories of Spanish America, which involved him with his own government, and for which he was tried as a traitor, but acquitted. Miss Martineau mentions these facts, and the bad repute in which he, consequently, continued to dwell among his fellow-citizens. It appears from these volumes that he smuggled himself out of America in 1808, the year after his trial at Richmond, and, under the name of H. E. Edwards, arrived in England with peculiar introductions and recommendations. His grand object seems to have been to plan and head the independence of Mexico, which the relations between our government and Spain at that time did not permit us to encourage. One of his chief intimacies was with Jeremy Bentham; but, altogether, his time passed any thing but pleasantly, except on a visit to Edinburgh, where he met with all that warmth of hospitality which does honour to the Land of Cakes, and enjoyed the society of some of the eminent persons who adorned the northern capital. On his return to London, he was arrested under a warrant of Lord Liverpool, and obliged to leave the country as an alien. Upon this occasion, he writes to his daughter a letter, in which it is evident more is meant than meets the eye—

"To Theodosia.

"London, April 11, 1808.

"I shall leave this on Friday the 14th for Heligoland, whence I shall go to the Continent by the first conveyance. You must not, therefore, expect to hear from me for two or three months after the receipt of this. Let your boy read history and biography of a style suited to his years. The order is of no consequence, in which, with great humility, I differ from Madame Theodosia. By and by, when he shall come to read more in detail, the order may be material. Let him also learn German. Say something more about —. A true Mussulman burns all books except those of Mohammed, which contain all of human knowledge that is valuable, and to have marked the boundary of human geniis."

"A. BURR."

Instead of Heligoland, his route was changed

to Gottenburg, and he travelled some months about Sweden and Denmark; whence he got to Paris, and in dudgeon with his treatment in England (where, he says, no statesman had any political comprehension or knowledge, except the late W. Pitt, Lord Melville, and Mr. Canning), proposed to the ruler of France the same project in which he had been balked by Lord Liverpool. He thus writes:—

"To le Duc d'Ortrane.

"Paris, May 30, 1810.

"Mr. Burr has the honour to transmit here-with the sheet lately submitted, together with three supplementary notes. A fourth, on the Canadas and Nova Scotia, will be offered, if desired. He asks the favour of an audience of his excellency le Duc d'Ortrane, for the purpose of making a few verbal explanations, and of reviewing the translation. Lest the hand-writing should not be legible to the translator, Mr. Burr offers to assist him in the reading; and will, for this purpose, meet him at any hour and place he may name. Mr. Burr will wait, to receive a message from him, at Paschaud's bookstore, Rue des Petites Augustins, No. 3. He takes the liberty of presenting assurances of his profound consideration and respect."

"A. BURR."

At this period, we find him in Paris, as elsewhere, suspected, baffled, and hunted from post to pillar; but still putting the best face on his trials, and submitting to all sorts of suffering with most stoical complacency. That he had some comfort will be acknowledged, when we quote a few passages from the letters of his angel-souled daughter.

"Now I think we have every reason to believe that my health will soon be restored; and, after all, it will be owing to your prescription. If you had been with me, I should have recovered long since. Oh, my guardian angel, why were you obliged to abandon me just when enfeebled nature doubly required your care? Alas, alas! how often have I deplored the want of your counsel and tenderness! How often, when my tongue and hands trembled with disease, have I besought Heaven either to reunite us, or let me die at once! Yet do not hence imagine that I yield to infantine lamentations or impatience. As soon as relief from pain restored me in some measure to myself, I became more worthy the happiness of being your daughter. Now my strength is greatly increased, my nerves are less irritable; and, if the disorder did not so strangely affect my head, I should feel almost well."

Again:—

"Eighteen days have elapsed since the above was written, and there is no news to add. Nothing has occurred, nothing altered. Shall it always be so with us? All nature changes. Day has followed night. There have been revolutions in the seasons; but our fates, which appear ever like black impending clouds ready to burst, still threaten, and still remain the same. I had hoped long before this to have done something efficient in your pecuniary concerns; but the important person is still from home. A letter received yesterday informs me of this again, and adds that he is expected daily. This has been the case for months. As soon as he reaches his place of destination, he will receive a visit from me. This is the only hope of success. Great Heaven! how truly miserable your situation renders me. What is to be done? Yet do not despair. Wait a little longer; perhaps the next packet may bring you all you wish. Of political affairs, the papers will tell you all I know. Many think that the late proceedings

will produce a war with Great Britain; and I have been seriously told that it would not be in my power to return home by water, because our coasts would soon be lined with English cruisers. I hope not so, in my heart. Your acquaintance, Mr. Smith, arrived a few days since, out of spirits and disappointed. He has left us again with new courage. He has not contributed to enliven me. Already anxious and distressed about you, he has rendered me doubly so by the addition of unavailing regrets, and the dreadful conviction that I have been the cause of real injury to you by the delay my illness occasioned. This I had felt before, but it never appeared to me in its full extent till after my conversation with him. The poignant sufferings this idea has occasioned me are indescribable; and though my life has been saved by it, I cannot rejoice at it, from a belief that your happiness will greatly depend on my existence. And can I then remunerate you for such sacrifices merely by living? Under every sort of misery, this reflection would make me careful of life, as of a treasure which I have in keeping for you, to be spent in your service. My boy improves charmingly, particularly in writing, and we are impatiently looking forward to the period when he will be able to write you a letter. I have not once thanked you for your magnificent present. Though you have been unexpectedly prevented from making it, the intention goes to my heart. The bust of Mr. Bentham does not come, and I begin to fear that it is lost. My veneration for him is enthusiastic. As he is fond of plants, perhaps a few seeds of benne and okro may be acceptable to him. I have sent to Frederic's for some, and shall send them by Mr. S. Mr. Bentham's fondness for botany has determined me to study it. I have hitherto had an aversion to the pursuit, from a belief that it was a mere science of words. But the idea of pursuing a track which has been illuminated by his presence would throw a charm over the driest labours. Perhaps, in that new country, unexplored by the eye of science, it may be my good fortune to make some little discovery which will please him. If his bust should be lost, will it be in your power to get me another? You must not shew my letters to any one. I am yet heavy and spiritless. Not out of spirits; 'mais, dépourvu d'esprit.' My mind feels awakening at times, and I am amusing myself in Spanish. I have taken but few lessons, and it will not be in my power to make much progress, as the master comes only thrice a-week, and my departure from hence is not very distant. I hope and trust it will be in my power to make some arrangement of your pecuniary concerns before I leave this part of the world. Unless successful in this, I shall go with a very, very heavy heart."

"March 8.
"This day has arrived and passed over. Yet of all the events which at the commencement of my letter, I imagined must happen before this, not one has occurred. I find that I am still a child, and look forward to a few weeks as an age big with important changes in my situation, and destined to be marked by innumerable improvements in myself. Perhaps, like the great herd of mankind, I too am doomed to look back with continual disappointment in both these expectations. Yet I do not believe that they proceed from an innate or instinctive disposition, ordained as the means of rendering life more dear, so much as from long habit. In the happy days of childhood, occurrences new, and even great in our estimation, are daily taking place. Thus, too,

without thinking of our characters or caring for knowledge, we every day find our minds enlarged. It is a long time before we can bring ourselves to calculate on the uniformity of middle life; and when, at length, experience has taught us this, we are again altering; but how differently! There is now hope of amelioration in your pecuniary concerns."

"Oaks (S. C.), May 10, 1811.

"This morning, and not until this morning, did I receive your letter of the 10th of January, 1811. In this way has our correspondence been maintained for the last two years. Now I hear that you are coming immediately; and while wondering that you have not arrived, I learn that you will be detained much longer. Then my hopes are again awakened, and, when again almost exhausted, they light up with a stronger, though a trembling brilliancy. The icy hand of disappointment falls upon my heart to smother every spark. Do not frown at these complaints. You do not. I will not believe that you do. Your image, kind and indulgent, is my guardian angel. From how many follies, how many faults, does it preserve me. It was accorded to me as a talisman, to cheer my prospects, to strengthen my resolutions, and incite me to noble efforts. The refusal of your passports by the agent of our government is a most overbearing and insulting outrage upon the common rights of a citizen. Who erected an American chargé d'affaires into a supreme judge? Who invested him with the most important prerogatives? I have written to Luther Martin, but have received no answer. I shall write again forthwith. Surely my letter must have miscarried. I have immutable faith in the strength and sincerity of his attachment to you. You, perhaps, have not heard that Robert Smith is removed from office, and Munro created secretary of state in his stead. The removal of Eustis is expected, according to our newspapers. A late paper mentioned that the postmaster-general was soon to yield his office to a steady friend of A. Burr. Who that friend is, or whether there is any truth in the assertion, I cannot tell. The corn-doctor is afraid to correspond with me. He was even very neglectful in giving his advice. 'Tis said he trembles at the great name more than any pious Hebrew ever did at the consecrated and mysterious title they had for the Deity. I have frequently mentioned the fate of my letter to 35-37. There is evidently no hope from that quarter. If the mind is negative, of which there is no assurance, it may be directed to any thing by those nearest, most in confidence, and most prominent in business. I say come; land in New York. This advice is disinterested on my part. But I am incapable of the affection which would sacrifice its object to any selfish gratification. I would, therefore, oppose the plan of embarking for South Carolina. Nothing can be done here. Your arrival will be known. The news of it will reach New York long before you. The fervency of surprise and delighted friendship will have time to cool, cabals to be formed, and measures to be taken. Go to New York. Make your stand there. If you are attacked, you will be in the midst of the tenth legion. Civil debts may be protracted, for a time, by confinement to the limits. There you can take breath; openly see your friends; make your arrangements; and soon, I think, you will be able to throw off those momentary shackles, and resume your station. I confess I augur ill of government, principally because the newspapers most devoted to it endeavour to keep up feelings of irritation against you. But I believe differently of the citizens generally."

At all events, it is better to brave any storm than to be leading your present life. It is better that things should be brought to a crisis you cannot entirely sink under; and, the worst once over, you will be free from all restraint. You may be situated as formerly. It cannot injure you more than this long-continued threat. If the worst comes, I will leave every thing to suffer with you. Should you determine on this plan, give it a fair trial. I repeat it, nothing can be done for you here, in South Carolina. To land here might ruin all. Would you believe it, Blennerhassett has written the most insulting letter to my husband. In this letter he accuses you and him of plans which never entered the heads of either; and says that, unless Mr. Alston pays him thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars, of which, to use his own phrase, he demands fifteen thousand by August; unless these sums are paid, he (Blennerhassett) will publish a pamphlet containing documents which must ruin him (Mr. Alston) for ever. He concludes by saying that his work is ready for publication, and adds—'If you do not prevent its appearance, you may rest assured I shall not, to save the trouble of smelting, abandon the ore I have with such expense of time and labour extracted from the mines both dark and deep; not, indeed, of Mexico, but of Alston, Jefferson, and Burr. Having mentioned Mr. Burr, I wish you to observe that I have long since ceased to consider reference to his honour, resources, or good faith in any other light than as a scandal to any man offering it who is not sunk as low as himself,' &c. &c. His language to Mr. Alston is in the same style. Such, in short, as a low-bred coward may use at the distance of many hundred miles."

And sad ending!—

"Seashore (S. C.), July 19, 1812.

"A few miserable days past, my dear father, and your late letters would have gladdened my soul; and even now I rejoice at their contents, as much as it is possible for me to rejoice at any thing; but there is no more joy for me; the world is a blank. I have lost my boy. My child is gone for ever. He expired on the 30th of June. My head is not now sufficiently collected to say any thing further. May heaven, by other blessings, make you some amends for the noble grandson you have lost.

"THEODOBIA.

"Seashore (S. C.), August 12, 1812.

"Alas! my dear father, I do live, but how does it happen? Of what am I formed that I live, and why? Of what service can I be in this world, either to you or any one else, with a body reduced to premature old age, and a mind enfeebled and bewildered? Yet, since it is my lot to live, I will endeavour to fulfil my part, and exert myself to my utmost, though this life must henceforth be to me a bed of thorns. Whichever way I turn, the same anguish still assails me. You talk of consolation. Ah! you know not what you have lost. I think Omnipotence could give me no equivalent for my boy. No; none—none."

All her letters are admirable: models of female writing, and alike estimable for sound sense and prudence, warmth of heart, delicacy, and genuine feeling. We will relieve the painful emotions created by the last with two or three slight selections.

Burr, writing from London, October 1808, says:—

"To fill up this blank page, take one of the many epigrams on Sir Hew Dalrymple. It was made impromptu by one of my friends in my presence. Perhaps it may have been published, but not to my knowledge:—

"When knights of old their falchions drew,
Their *mot de guerre* was Hack and Hew;
Our modern knight, of fighting shy,
Should make his motto Hew and cry."

The following ridiculous epitaph made me laugh. If it raise a smile on the wan cheek of my Theodosia, I should deem it valuable indeed. The subject of it, who is more famed for his wealth and his long services in the corporation than for classic erudition, is in the habit, as is said, like our worthy vice-president, of using *this-eve* and *that-are*, as *exigra*: Take *this-here* knife and cut *that-there* goose. The epitaph was produced at a feast at which he was present, and the story adds that he joined in the laugh with great good humour.

"Here lies William Curtis, our late worthy lord mayor,
Who has left *this-here* world and gone to *that-there*."

"A. BURR."

"In England you see no expression painted on the visage at a concert. All is sombre and grim. They cry bravo! bravissimo! with the same countenance that they 'G—d damn' their servants and their government. * * *

"A gentleman (in Paris) remarked that the English had no word to express *ennui*, which he thought the more remarkable as they were so subject to that evil. 'No,' replied le Comte de L., 'In England it is conceived to be the natural state, and synonymous with existence, and, therefore, no word requisite.'

Of poor Burr's life in Paris, we shall now proceed to select from his diary a few traits; which we think will bear us out in the sentiments we have expressed. The particular dates or connecting circumstances are of no consequence.

"On my way home met Mr. —, who invited me to go home with him to communicate something. It is, that the Americans here have entered into a combination against Aaron Burr. That every man who speaks to him shall be shunned as unworthy of society. That no master of vessel, or any other person, shall take any letter or parcel for him, or other like benevolent things; all which amused me, but alarmed my friend. The most violent of this association is a young Seaman, son of Edmund Seaman, of New York. More of the like. Mr. —, of Boston, related in a large company, that he, being on a jury at Boston last summer on an insurance case of the Herkimer, Judge Chase presiding, and Luther Martin, one of the lawyers, on some dispute between them, the judge said to Martin, 'I am surprised that you can so prostitute your talents.' Martin replied, 'I never prostituted my talents except when I defended you and Colonel Burr; and added, in the hearing of the jury, 'a couple of the greatest rascals in the world.' A Mr. Thompson, of Charleston, South Carolina, a Scotchman, but naturalised in the United States, now settled here, being asked if he had called on Colonel Burr, said, 'No; and no good American would call on him.' * * *

"Certain personal concerns kept me up till two. Waked, wide awake, at six. Got up, lighted candle, made fire. Jul. came in at half-past seven, and greatly astonished to find me at breakfast, having had bread and milk enough of yesterday. At ten to Valkenaer's, where an hour and a half. How good he is. I deposited with him two thousand five hundred francs, about five hundred dollars. Now you will marvel how I could possibly raise so enormous a sum (one hundred guineas!); that was my business yesterday, which I did not then tell you, not knowing whether Valkenaer would take the trouble; not a little, I assure you. Your watch and your ring are both pawned for one thousand francs (two hundred

dollars); this, with the remains of the sum had some time ago of Griswold, as then mentioned, made this bank. On casting up my remains, find I have left just twenty-one dollars. If, therefore, the speculation should fail — [which it did].

"What cannot be cured must be endured" was his motto.

"I am about to undertake the translation from English into French of two octavo volumes for one hundred louis. It will take me three months hard work. Better than to starve. But the most curious part of the story is, that the book in question contains a quantity of abuse and libels on A. Burr."

He had shewn the people of his lodgings how to mend smoky chimneys, and was assured he might make his fortune as a famous *fumiste*. But mark: —

"Home, made a good fire, and actually have thawed off the ice. Jul. would make me sup on vermicelli, which she cooked very nice, and have agreed by the same advice to lay a bed to-morrow till nine, in complaisance to the cold. Now one o'clock, madam.

"4. Lay till ten, being so cold. Gamp. was afraid. After deliberating two hours whether I should call on Mrs. Robertson, sor. at two to Valkenaer's; found him, as usual, in bed, but mending. Found there Mr. —, just arrived from Amsterdam. A fine, frank, open, decided face. He served in the United States during the revolutionary war, in Pulaski's corps. Had an only daughter, whom he educated in a superintendence style. She died at twenty. Albertine* came in from a walk, and looked very charming. Gave up my visit to Mrs. Robertson's, and walked round by St. Denis, through Palais Royal, to Helvetius, and thence home. On the way, bought *éternelles* for the children of Madame P., 40 sous; another pair of *chevettes*, 36 sous. Home, and dined on vermicelli *au lait*; very good. The day has been cold, tempestuous; a little snow falling. Now, at twelve, the wind still higher and snowing faster. From what quarter the gale comes, I don't know; but at intervals of about one or two minutes, it blows directly down my chimney, and with such force as to carry ashes and coals over the whole floor. I have been since four o'clock in purgatory, for the evil is remediless while the gale stands at the same point and with the same force. After various experiments how to weather the gale, I at length discovered that I could exist by lying flat on the floor; for this purpose I laid a blanket; and reposing on my elbows, with a candle at my side, on the floor, have been reading 'L'Espion Anglois,' translated from the English; extremely well written; and, thus prostrate, I have the honour to write you this. When I got up just now for pen and ink, I found myself almost buried in ashes and cinders. You would have thought I had laid a month at the foot of Mount Vesuvius."

At the close we are told: —

"From the 18th of February until the middle of May, 1811, the journal is missing. This is unfortunate, as the period was interesting; and it is to be regretted that his correspondence, so far as it is preserved among his papers, does not afford a satisfactory explanation as to the manner in which he ultimately obtained a passport to leave France. It is, however, known to the editor of these volumes, that he was greatly indebted to M. Denon and to the Duke de Bassano for their unceasing aid and kindness

on the occasion. The latter of whom, through the agency of the former, voluntarily and generously advanced the necessary funds to enable Col. Burr to discharge all his debts, and to leave the country with credit."

His troubles, however, were not ended. The vessel in which he sailed from Holland for America was taken by an English cruiser, and he was brought to London, again to suffer and starve.

"To J. Reeves.

"Yarmouth Roads, October 5, 1811.

"It is something more than two years that I was banished and transported out of England, and now, equally against my will, I am brought back again. Having been detained in France more than eighteen months in a sort of limbo, called surveillance, constantly soliciting and denied a passport, I at length obtained one under an assumed name, and sailed from the Texel on the 28th September, in the American ship Vigilant, Captain Combes, bound for Boston. On Monday, the 29th, were visited by his majesty's frigate, le Désiré, who took possession of our ship and ordered her to Yarmouth; but the wind being ahead, and the Vigilant a dull sailor and badly equipped, after six days' hard labour, without having approached Yarmouth, Mr. Word, the prize-master, thought it prudent to put into any port he could make. This afternoon we cast anchor in the mouth of the Thames, and I hasten to announce myself to you, as well to avoid all appearance of mystery as to ascertain the measure of hospitality which I may expect from the government. My object was when I embarked, and still is, to get as soon as possible to the United States."

How he fared in London, one extract will show: —

"Some of the books I must sell: i.e. Bayle and Moretti, at least. I went off to consult my friend Mr. Cooper, the solicitor. He had been at his office to-day. Waited half an hour, standing in the public room, but he came not. Went thence to J. Sm.'s, whose advice, as an intelligent merchant, I thought might be useful; but he was also out. Being a good deal fatigued, and something hungry, stepped into our eating-house (just by Graves's), and took beef and a pint of ale. Thence to see Koe, who has his office in my walk. Gave him my note to J. B., and told him the story of the books, for I have promised J. B. some of those books. Thence loitering, and staring at picture shops, and thinking of that cursed A., to J. Hug's, to get her to put my thirty-franc watch (the only one left) in order. She discovered the malady, and repaired it in fifteen minutes. Sat an hour. It is, perhaps, the only creature in London who does exclusively love Gam. On my way, passed through Covent Garden, and bought her one shilling and sixpence worth of apples and pears. Then slowly, and by various *détours*, home, where, at half-past five, having trotted about four leagues, was a little *abattois*. Sent out for half a pound mutton, eightpence; pint ale, fourpence; one pound candles, elevenpence halfpenny; one pound sugar, ninepence; pipes and tobacco, fivepence; two quires paper, one shilling and sixpence; half-quartern loaf of bread, eightpence; six pounds potatoes, sixpence. So that my expenses yesterday and to-day, exclusive of room-rent and fire, have been eleven shillings and sixpence; but observe that I have had, in this fortnight, only half a pound of meat, six pounds of potatoes, and four pounds six ounces of bread. In my stroll to-day, seeing St. Paul's open, went in for the

* A lady of a certain description.

† A married woman, and a proclaimed favourite of Mr. Burr's.

first time ; cost fourpence, *i. e.* twopence for a book, and twopence for entrance."

We must now conclude, and we will do so by simply stating, that in the *Diary and Adventures of Aaron Burr* will be found a very instructive and curious Picture of the World.*

The Fergusons; or, Woman's and the World's Favour. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1839. Colburn.

THIS is a fashionable novel, and describes what young ladies and young gentlemen, among the upper classes, feel towards each other on meeting at balls, concerts, breakfasts and water parties, &c., and how they speak and act on such occasions. To be a tolerable critic one ought to know something of art or something of nature, so that to give an opinion of a picture or a person might not be a stretch beyond the mark ; but in a production of this sort, descriptive of lordlings, titled damsels, dowagers of fashion, guardsmen, *et hoc genus omne*, who ride in their own cabs and carriages, keep bad hours, live on the fat of the land, and give in to flirtations, there is such a mixture of art and nature, that, without a more competent acquaintance with the circles in question than we can pretend to possess, it would be presumptuous to guess at the perfection or inaccuracy of the delineation. All we shall say, that *Woman's Love and the World's Favour* appear to us to be so desirable, either separately or conjointly, that if "The Fergusons" teach the way to their attainment, they are schoolmasters whose lessons deserve the best attention.

Having delivered these oracular sentences we shall only add, that the love-affairs are neatly and not intricately involved, the principal female characters of a superior order, and the "gents" drawn with sufficient discrimination. Amongst the company one Jack Thompson is introduced, the original sitter for whom might almost be surmised. He is the wit and lion (*alias* the Van Amburgh and beast) of the day ; and as the author not only offers some sound advice of his own upon certain very interesting topics, but puts some clever observations into the mouth of his Punch, we shall select our extracts from these sources : —

" We may, perhaps," says the author, " be excused, if we fill up the time with one or two hints for those who are in the habit of giving dinners ; hints which appear so obvious, that we should be ashamed to enforce them, were we not aware, by sad experience, how often they are neglected, and what evils result from this neglect. The one most often disregarded, and apparently most obvious, is this : ' Never ask a disagreeable man to dine with you.' We do not here allude to stupid men, or silent men, or mere chattering ; for if all these are excluded, the party, instead of exceeding, as it generally does, the number of the Muses, would hardly reach that of the Graces. Besides, listeners and talkers are necessary, or at least often useful, and the gentlemen we have alluded to are generally well qualified to enact these parts. But your disagreeable man ! (an animal, by the by, that requires no description, as every body would recognise him at a glance) it is always a matter of surprise to us, dinner-eaters, how you, most worthy dinner-givers, can permit the really disagreeable men to join your parties,

* In the printing there are as many blunders as in the usual French edition of English names. Thus, Turn for Truro; Eghorn for Egham; Turnivelli for Turnerelli (to whom Burr sat for his bust) ; Bath for Bath ; Fettis for Fettis (lord-provost of Edinburgh) ; Gaud for Gaud ; Conchal for Cancale, &c. &c.

and ' spoil the pleasure of the time.' And yet we meet such people, at what would otherwise be the pleasantest parties, but which they contrive to spoil, and to which they come (strange to say) not in sheep's clothing, but with all the snarl, tusks, and hide, of the undisguised wolf. If you are a man of sense, gentle reader, you most likely have no such creature within that limit of acquaintanceship which makes it possible that you should invite him. If, however, your ill fortune, or your own imprudence, has placed you in that predicament, I would merely say, get rid of him as soon as you can ; and you will find no mode of more certainly nor more satisfactorily effecting it, than by leaving him out of your dinner invitations. To the host and hostess it can be hardly necessary to suggest the propriety of taking care that the gentleman and lady of the highest rank, who will be certain to sit at their respective elbows, should be agreeable companions ; which may easily be either ensured, or rendered impossible, by the decision they form as to inviting, or not inviting, some bores who may happen to be a step higher in the peirage. Another hour, too often neglected, is never to ask any well-known satirical gentleman, whose wit, ' how'er so well it flow,' is essentially ill-natured. He will most likely select some weak individual among your guests, whom he will contrive to render eminently ridiculous, without giving such offence as the unfortunate sufferer, consistently with his own dignity, can notice. The consequence will be, that the injured individual will turn all his indignation on you, and most likely think that he has double cause of offence against you : first, for having asked any one on purpose to quiz your friends ; and, secondly, for having invited him on purpose to be quizzed. Let us also recommend you never to attempt, by general conversation, to amuse your whole company at once, if they exceed the number of twelve. They will amuse each other separately much better, and the chances are, that the subject which you start, and would wish to render interesting to all, will not ' please the many.' "

Mr. Stephenson Jones, made the cat-saw of an elderly fashionable at the Horticultural Gardens, is sketched in an amusing manner.

" Perhaps, Mr. Jones would be so very good as to get our carriage for us ? " Poor Mr. Jones was obliged to comply, and after pushing his way through the well-dressed party at the entrance gate, who were waiting, with a look of despair which bespoke half an hour already spent in the same way, the coming up of some dilatory No. 1029, he demanded, in an audible voice, ' Mrs. Aston's carriage.' No answer was given. There was a long line, reaching to the high-road, still remaining. The name was passed along the whole distance, varying, in its progress, to Ashby, Ashly, Oxly, Oxlip, &c., but without any result. Poor Mr. Jones was in despair ; at last, a half-drunk linkman asked him whether he was quite sure it was not at the other entrance ? Mr. Jones could not take upon him to be quite sure of any thing of the kind. Whereupon the linkman ventured to repeat, that it certainly was there, and volunteered to run round, if Mr. Jones would cross the garden to the other gate ; which he agreed to do. After hurrying across, by a sunny path, through an empty part of the gardens, the same machinery was set to work at the other entrance, with the same result, or rather no result. This delay, which drove Mr. Jones almost to despair, was perhaps not, in fact, very wonderful, inasmuch as Mrs. Aston's coachman and footman were very

quietly discussing a pot of ale in the George, at Hammersmith ; having wisely settled that the ladies would not come away till near the end ; and that it was much better to keep the horses out of the crowd and dust. They got up, however, at last, and prepared to take their posts, just as poor Mr. Jones was returning to Mrs. Aston, to declare that he could not hear of her carriage any where, though it had been called in every direction ; and that he feared there must have been some accident or mistake. ' I am afraid, Mr. Jones,' said Mrs. Aston, very drily, and laying a marked stress on the name, ' you cannot have asked at the right place. My servants are so very regular, I think if they had been asked for properly (here she addressed herself to a young guardsman who had been talking to her), I think they would have answered.' ' I will be bound I find them for you,' said the guardsman ; and off he went, and, unluckily for Mr. Jones's credit, returned in a few minutes, with the information that her carriage was ready. Mrs. Aston gave a look which seemed to imply her opinion of Mr. Jones's inattention or awkwardness ; and his disgrace was complete when her footman protested that he had been in waiting for the last hour, and had not stirred from the place. He took this implied disgrace as if he had really deserved it ; and could not persuade himself, as they drove home, that he had had quite so pleasant an afternoon as he expected."

We conclude with Jack Thompson's sketch of a stage-coach ride, and anticipation of a cottage accommodation for the Ascot week, after the school of Hook ; and as there cannot be a more amusing one, with it we break up : —

" You must often meet with very curious adventures in stage-coaches ? " said Arthur. ' Not so often as you would suppose,' said his companion. ' I was once, however, much amused by what happened to me when I was going down to Lord Saltwick, who, as you know, is a neighbour of the Duke of Lincolnshire. There were only two other passengers, one a very smart, stout, elderly man, who seemed inclined, from the very beginning of the journey, to give himself great airs, at the expense of the other passenger and myself. I had gone the first stage outside ; and on my attempting to occupy my own inside place, he objected to the introduction of an outside passenger ; and when this was cleared up to his satisfaction by the guard, he disputed my right to the management of my window, and quoted stage-coach law against me most learnedly. At the inn where we stopped to dinner, he desired the waiter to take away ' these,' — pointing most contemptuously to some steel forks — and bring silver ones ; adding, ' for that is, I believe, what we have been used to.' In short, he made himself eminently ridiculous and disagreeable. What was my surprise, on the first day at dinner at Lord Saltwick's, at hearing a well-known voice behind me saying, ' Sweet or dry champagne, sir ? ' and recognising my travelling companion in Lord Saltwick's butler. ' Did you tell them about it at Saltwick ? ' said Arthur. ' Why, the man looked so terrified when he recognised me, and gave me such an imploring look, that I considered myself sufficiently revenged ; I should, therefore, have said nothing more on the subject, only that I knew I was asked there to contribute my quota in amusing a royal duke who was one of the party. And as I did not know any other story so likely to answer that purpose, I thought it would be dishonest to deprive them of it.' ' And the poor butler was turned away, I suppose ? ' ' No ! though I should have had not

much compassion for him, I did not wish to be the minister of justice. I therefore made a bargain with Lord Saltwick to spare him. It was, however, I fancy, a very unnecessary precaution.' 'Why—was he so invaluable?' He had at least succeeded in making his master think so. Indeed, when I asked Lord Saltwick how long Jervis (for that was his name) had been living with him, he answered, 'Why, he lived nine years with me; and, since then, I have lived five with him,' which was, I fancy, pretty much the real state of the case.' Arthur laughed a merry laugh at old Lord Saltwick's state of domestic servitude, with all the conscious liberty of a young bachelor, who has nothing to do but discharge a delinquent valet one moment, and engage a better the next. 'What sort of a house is Rosebush Cottage?' said he, after they had driven through Egham. 'I never saw it,' answered Mr. Thompson, 'but if it resembles all the rustic cottages I have ever known, I think I can describe it. A good deal of roof, and very little upper story, Brödbignag chimneys outside, Lilliput fireplaces within; a gigantic portico and diminutive hall, a greenhouse as big as a drawing-room, and a drawing-room in temperature and size like a hot-house.' 'And what sort of people are to inhabit this Paradise?' inquired Arthur; 'one likes to have some idea beforehand, in order to escape after-disappointments.' 'There again,' said Mr. Thompson, 'I have no facts on which to ground my information; but if you will allow me to speculate, in the absence of them, I should say that there will be about half a dozen more than the house will conveniently hold, and that the six supernumeraries will be just the sort of people to come within the description of a great addition, but no improvement to the party. I do hope, however, that our hostess will follow the example of the lady I visited last Ascot, and bring about one or two matches by her invitations; there is nothing so interesting and instructive as to see that sickly plant, a London flirtation, gaining strength under the alternations of cloudless suns and rural shades, at one of these villas, till it develops itself in the shape of a matrimonial alliance about to take place. But a truce to speculations as to the cottage or its guests, for here we are.'"

This is not amiss.

The Deluge; a Drama, in Twelve Scenes. By John Edmund Reade, author of "Italy, in Six Cantos, with Historical and Classical Notes," "Cain the Wanderer," &c. 8vo. 151. London, 1839. Saunders and Otley. From the time that Homer called in the gods to give more than mortal grandeur to his "Iliad," and piled up that high superstructure whose summit all but reaches Heaven—to the present day, have all our great poets loved to enrich their pages by the aid of the superior powers. Saving the father of song, Milton ventured to soar beyond all others, and flapped his mighty pinions into the "Heaven of heavens," calling forth the voice of Him who is shielded in a glory before which the angels themselves veil their faces with their wings. Byron, in his "Heaven and Earth," shrank from scaling these dizzy regions, and Moore, in his "Loves of the Angels," rose with light but trembling wings no higher than the human eye pierces into the vaulted firmament. Barry Cornwall, in his "Flood of Thessaly," has also ventured to set his foot on the steep mountain, and panted nobly up towards those summits on whose highest tops are seated only Homer, Shakspere, and Milton.

It requires superior genius to render merely readable subjects of this overwhelming nature; but even that genius, which on other occasions can far outdistance all common competitors, is not always strong enough to wing its way into those dark and sublime scenes where the red sun sets angrily in the bosom of the deep thunder-cloud, and sheds his ominous light over a world that is growing gloomy and desolate. If, then, even a Milton could scarcely guide the ark aright when the torrents roared like seas from the mountain-heights, and the sheeted lightning blazed upon such groups as painter could never portray, nor poet imagine, we must expect that a less able hand would leave the mighty vessel a wreck, when no pilot ever lived capable of steering her safely through such troublous seas. Great credit must, however, be given to him who can at all manage to keep the bark afloat amid such certain destruction until the last ray gilds the roof of the ark, and all beside is darkness.

But, speaking no longer metaphorically, Mr. Reade cannot be said to have failed in that which no one is able to accomplish; he has ventured along as far as the very boldest who ever preceded him, and no one can read his *Deluge* without pronouncing it a daring work—a production of a very high order: such a poem, indeed, as none but a superior genius would dare to venture upon. The language which he has put into the mouths of Azoara and Astarte, Israphil and Oraziel, overflows with the sweetest eloquence, and abounds in such thoughts as approach the high standard of poetry. We need but point out the following passages, which will speak to every heart:—

"The mountainous solitudes of Hermon.
Isaphiel—Azoara—Oraziel—Astarte.

Astarte. Is this our doom decreed? and must we stand?

And meet destruction face to face? and feel
The bitterness of death ere it be past;

Without a hope in God or from ourselves? Oh, though I heard the threat, I deemed it still

A sound; I thought our Maker's mercy was

As infinite as his abounding love.

Oraziel. And does Astarte in her fears forget
Her angel's presence? that his fate is joined
Inseparably with hers?—these doubts may well
Become the earth-doomed, not the loved of heaven.

Astarte. Look at me! do I tremble?—though those

clouds

Hang o'er our heads as if they could no more
Control their wrath; although the sulken sounds
Of pent-up winds and waters meet my ears,
Both hands tremble that is clasped in thine?

Oraziel. No, my love, Astarte, this is

Because it feels the will within resigned

To meet the death from which it shuns; it sees

The worst, and is prepared; and, when it comes,

I shall look passively upon the sights

That sterner natures might appal.

Farewell,

O thou dear earth—that I have loved so well!

Farewell the dim and leafy places, where

These eyes first opened to the azure air,

And drank in all the glories of the day,

Stamped in my heart, that cannot pass away!

The love, the life, the beauty which there dwells;

The stars that seemed like God's own oracles,

Making me feel, while gazing on each shrine,

Although they spoke not, that their homes were mine!

Farewell the twilight imaging that heaven

I never now shall see; and my own flowers,

Mingling their sweet breath with my own;

Gladdening the earth with their bright eyes, which I

Have loved as living things, and felt,

Watching them for many a weary hour,

They were my heart's companions given:

That human sympathies within them dwelt;

For in the sunshine I have seen them glad,

As if my joy they had!

And droop their heads beneath the sky o'ercast,

With a fine sorrow!—they, too, die like me,

But not alone;

When their bright hours are past,

They leave behind them for their memory

Some odorous breathings, and a few light leaves,—

Frail playthings of the wind: the wind that grieves

Or seems to grieve above them!

I shall pass,

And die unknown:—lost—buried in the mass

Of a departed world; I shall not rest

On the sweet pillow of some human breast:

I shall not hear the soothing sympathies
Of human love! the silent speaking eyes,
Whose feeling found no vent in words, but made
Their silence, more than eloquence, pervade
The answering spirit; until even to die
Became but slumber's last tranquillity;
A blessing—on my loved one's breast reclined,
Feeling I left my love—my life behind!
Oh, the deep and sad, yet never known
Love's desolating passion, but how flown
Lightly from earth as gossamer doth rise,
Serenely wafted to the twilight skies,
Or slumbered like the violet unseen,
Known only by its breath that it had been!
While human eyes and human hearts had found
My grave, and sacrificed the holy ground!—
With tears drawn from the memories of love:
With prayers that had been borne to me above;
And made a haunt of that familiar spot,
While I, in death, should not have been forgot!"

Independent of many passages of similar power to the above, the drama possesses a deep interest; and several of the descriptions abound in a fearful grandeur, which fills the mind with deep awe while contemplating them. Altogether we consider it as Mr. Reade's greatest work, and although it is a subject which, as we have before said, there is scarcely a possibility of working out to perfection, yet, so far as he has gone, he has nobly accomplished his design.

'Tis an Old Tale, and Often Told. 12mo.
pp. 322. London, 1839. Jennings.

Our pleasantest task is ever the encouragement of talent wherever we may find it, and, "though we say it," many an author, now reaping a fair harvest of fame and profit, has thanked us for being the first to discover and point out the incipient promise of such a return. The single volume before us has many claims to our indulgence: it is evidently the work of a young person; and, notwithstanding sundry Latin quotations, that person a lady. The tale is a *bona fide* love-story, feelingly told. The following sketches of persons are natural:—

"Miss Page was very fat; she piqued herself on possessing great naïveté and simplicity of character. She was one of those 'unlessoned girls, unschooled, unpractised,' who, with a fearless frankness, give utterance to every crude thought that passes through their fertile brains; she had afflictingly high spirits, and laughed so loud, and talked so fast, that you felt, after speaking with her (or rather after hearing her speak, for as to any thing like a reciprocity of communication, that was quite out of the question), a weight on your chest, a struggling for breath, similar to that pleasantest sensation, the nightmare; in short, she ran where less mercurial people would have walked; romped, where others only danced; and jested on many subjects which the prejudices of old-fashioned people have, from time immemorial, venerated as sacred; added to all which, she had a string of pet phrases, that would have made a philologist's hair stand on end: such as, a nice man, a dear little chair, a sweet table, a glorious dress, a darling bonnet, a bewitching necklace, &c. &c."

Did our readers ever meet a Miss Page? Again:—

"Miss Herbert was a singular abstraction. She passed her life in a Rip Van Winkle state of torpor; a tortoise was active-minded and agile in comparison; it was impossible to look on her without feeling a drowsy sensation creep over you. In person she was only noticeable for the colour of her hair, which looked as though it had been spun by the silkworm; her thin compressed lips (but that was no wonder, since she never opened them but to eat or drink), and heavy drooping lids, which seemed always about to play the part of nature's soft nurse, and curtain the eyes beneath them, into

most profound repose. From 'eve to morn, from morn to dewy eve' again, would she sit at her embroidery, which was in her hands a complete Penelope's web: whether she undid every night her morning's work I never could discover; certain however it is, that it did not appear to progress. Visions of Herculaneum and Pompei were associated with her presence. I never looked at her without thinking of the baker transfixed at his oven, or the soldier discovered immovable in the guardroom, or the luckless wretch with his keys and purse of gold."

One more, and we have done:—

"How shall I describe her? Bizarre, capricious, wild, fantastic, yet withal generous, frank, and confiding; haughty, and at times insolent to her equals and superiors, yet condescending almost to familiarity with those beneath her in station; impatience of control, and headstrong when opposed, yet easily swayed by even the appearance of submission; startling you one moment by a profound knowledge of sciences, generally considered beyond the scope of woman's intellect, perplexing you the next by a child-like ignorance of the commonest every-day topics of discourse; satirical more from exuberance of spirits than bitterness of disposition, Margaret Sidney was one of the most original, yet, at the same time, least popular persons I have ever met with. By her own sex she was universally disliked, for women never pardon in each other the slightest tincture of eccentricity; and although followed, flattered, and admired by the men, none seemed anxious to appropriate to himself what each, perhaps, deemed might prove rather a dangerous possession. Poor Mrs. Sidney, herself the thrall of fashion, the bond-slave of decorum, was driven nearly wild by her daughter's wilful defiance of the Mede and Persian laws of society."

Fables. By the most eminent British, French, German, and Spanish Authors, Illustrated with Numerous Engravings, after Original Designs, by J. J. Grandville. Parts I., II., III., IV. London, 1839. Tilt; Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

We were exceedingly pleased with the promise given by the first part of this truly, what it ventures to proclaim itself, "Splendid Library Edition of Fables," &c., and have only waited for a more sufficient development of the plan before we committed our judgment to its literary and pictorial excellence. With both we are now perfectly satisfied, and can cordially recommend the publication to the young for moral instruction, not less entertaining than beneficial; to the admirers of embellishments, for the spirit, character, and execution of the designs; and to all, for the well-selected miscellaneous and amusing nature of the fables from the stores of all countries. There are many original, or little known, specimens among them; and those done into verse are flowing and easy. We copy an example:—

"The Black and Red Lobsters.

"My friend, ill-fated Spikey is no more!
A pensive lobster sighed on Norway's coast,
And mourning for his friend it seemed he wore,
For he was black as good King Henry's ghost.
Sorrow sat heavy on that lobster's soul;
And, though I cannot say he turned his shell,
His anguish thus gained speech, which, on the whole,
His purpose answered possibly as well.
I grieve that Spikey's dead; nor is this all,
For of my friend defunct, alas! 'tis said,
His colour he deserted in his fall,
Abandoning the black, and dying red.
I little thought that one I loved so well
Would prove a recreant in his parting breath,
Nor dreamed insulting enemies would tell
That he could barely change in life or death.

But former lobsters, history tells, were found
Proud of their coat in youth's bright day, who when
Temptations, dangers, woes, came thickening round,
Could meannly change it, as if only men.

What if 'tis true, as some reports have spread,
That horrid warmth to torture him begun,
That fearful heat assailed both claw and head,
Worse than the noontide glow of summer's sun?

Still I had hoped a lobster, firm and true,
Had held himself superior to a prawn,
And fixed to countenance no varying hue,
Died a black-bright example to his spawn.

For me if mighty calliprugs should clasp,
And bear me to the hottest liquid track,
Faithful to honour, with my latest gasp,
I'd perish as I lived,—simply black.

I, in the fiercest storm that ever raved,
When thunder's roar has other fish unmoved,
My colour, lose what else I might, I saved,
And never from it pitifully spares.

Whatever chance it may be mine to know
(And I may into awful peril rush),
It never shall be said by friend or foe,
That ignominiously 'twas mine to blush.'

He spoke, that all the people of the main
Should know him, thus determined was his wish;
Nor pited, while indulged this lofty strain,
The weakness of another shelly fish.

But having most magnanimously bawled,
It accents fit for the heroic lyre,
A fisherman secured him as he sprawled,
And dropped him in a kettle on the fire.

And oh! when this calamity involved,
That resolution, which could never bend,
In boiling water instantly dissolved,
And he himself turned scarlet as his friend.

Moral.
Thus men on others' foibles who declaim,
And look on neighbours with disdainful eyes,
Prove in like circumstances just the same,
And grow unconsciously what they despise.
And women, too, whose scorn no sister spares,
Frailty pursuing with relentless hate,
Find themselves overtaken unawares
And wake to share and merit the same fate."

Again we recommend the work: little children will laugh at the cuts,—when more grown they will enjoy the fables,—and, after all, the volume may be an ornament to their libraries when they come, in due course, to have families of their own.

Peru as it is.

[Second notice.]

Of the distinguished individual at the head of the Peruvian confederation, we have the following anecdote:—

"Ever since Europeans became acquainted with the Indian race, self-possession has been noticed as one of their most striking characteristics. Atahualpa was unmoved in the midst of every danger: and Santa-Cruz (of Cacique blood) has, in our own day, signally illustrated the same high feature of character in the Inca family. Finding himself for a moment isolated on the field of battle, and on the point of being pierced through by a trooper, he called out in a commanding voice—'Alza esa lanza y sigue me!'—Raise that lance and follow me! Thus, his presence of mind saved his life; for the mysterious power of a superior mind triumphed over the hostile arm of the infuriated soldier—who, now, as we are told, occupies a place in the body-guard of Santa-Cruz."

The formidable cholera is a slight affair in Peru.

"The facility of procuring ice renders cholera morbus a disease of easy cure, according to the popular practice of the natives. In the first stage of this malady they administer diluents, such as warm water, linseed or mallow water, with or without a little seasoning of cream of tartar or tamarinds; and these simple drinks they continue to give until they consider that the patient has vomited and voided enough, that is, until all undigested matters be thrown off, and the bowels well unloaded; and then they administer iced water, which produces a powerfully sedative effect. The death-like coldness of the patient deters

neither the vulgar nor the regular practitioner (who sometimes conjoins opiates and iced drinks) from giving this remedy with confidence; and the general consequence of the seasonable use of ice and iced water in this fearful disorder is, that the stage of external coldness is shortened by the early removal of internal heat; and thus the exhausting career of the disease is quickly arrested. Under this vulgar but satisfactory and long-established treatment of cholera morbus in Lima, where the disease is endemic, though more prevalent in the hot months, vomiting, hiccup, and cramps disappear; reaction is so mild and favourable as never to require the lancet; yet recovery is almost always certain, though cases appear from time to time so intense as to assume the aspect of what is called Asiatic cholera, during which, as a native physician expresses it, the patient is a horrid image of death."

It is remarkable, that while in every part of Europe the warmest remedies are applied to this disorder, in Asia it is more successfully combated by cold treatment. The Arabs give rice-water there and everywhere; but in Hindostan, the hot system is unknown or discarded.

It seems that chimneys and stoves have lately become common in Chilian houses, and we understand they are the rage now in Petersburgh.

"Such, however, as still want these conveniences, make use of the old-fashioned brasiers, or pans of live charcoal. Over these, though people may toast their legs if they please, still their backs and shoulders are suffering from cold, as the heat of the *brasero*, or brasier, is not sufficient to support a proper degree of general temperature in the air of the apartment in which it is placed."

Of fossils we learn:—

"The Indians of the one and the other hemisphere corroborate the truth of their traditions by being able to present the great molar teeth, or grinders, which are found under the surface of the earth in the places alluded to. In Peru, these teeth, with other bones of enormous magnitude, are found in the province of Chichas, near the tropic of Capricorn; and in Chile there are not wanting vestiges of the same sort of organic remains. I have had in my possession four of these molar teeth, of which I yet preserve one in the library of the Medical College of San Fernando. When compared among themselves, I have judged, from their configuration, that they did not belong to the same fossil elephant; but, rather, that three pertained to the mammoth, and that one had belonged to the mastodon of Cuvier: from which it is to be inferred that those very bulky animals, which in remote ages lived in Siberia and North America, had penetrated into Southern America, where they have left the natives, in the relics of their destruction, or fossil remains, a memorial of the existence and punishment of antediluvian giants. The bony fragments which are considered to be parts of this gigantic race, may they not rather consist of earthy petrifications in water impregnated with lime? Between the villages of Chorillos and Miraflores, in the locality named Calera, water impregnated with lime is observed to percolate at the foot of the *barranco*, or broken bluff land; and it deposits on the stones, over which it drips or passes, certain crusts or laminae, which have the same appearance with the bony laminae of the human skull."**

"It is evident, from the concluding query and remark of Dr. Unanue, that he suspected some speculators in the science of geology of no small share of credulity;

The scientific notices at the end are the most interesting things in the work.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Claims of Christian Philanthropy; or, the Duty of a Christian Government with respect to Moral and Religious Education, &c. &c. By R. Whythead, B.A. 8vo. pp. 256. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

THIS essay is published for the benefit of the Philanthropic Society,* which had issued the

"Prospectus of a Prize Essay on the Pernicious Effects of Irascible Competition in Worldly Pursuits, and of Intemperance, as Two Evils frustrating the Efficacy, and impeding the Progress, of National Religious Education. (To be comprised in Four Sections.) Section 1.—To represent the very serious and imperative duty, which attaches to the government of a nation in exercising its functions, towards promoting a sound, religious, and moral education amongst all classes of the community; and on the other hand to suppress, or at least to discourage, whatever may impede it, or be prejudicial thereto. Section 2.—To depict the painful effects produced by irascible competition, in regard to the unwarrantable and cruel treatment of the dumb and defenceless animal creation, arising from the necessities of continual and unceasing limitation being inflicted on the exertions exacted of them by mankind. Section 3.—To illustrate the painful effects, both upon the mental and physical energies of a densely crowded and thoughtless population, produced by competition in the unrestricted sale of intoxicating liquors; when, to aid the above demoralizing and pestiferous traffic, every alluring enticement is adopted. Section 4.—To argue how powerfully the above evils must, separately and collectively, tend to neutralize the beneficial effects which Christianity has at so much cost, and with so much labour and talent, striven to dispense, and the characteristic features of which are humanity, temperance, and the most comprehensive of its doctrines—charity. The Essay to be framed on general principles, and not with the view of entering into the political disquisitions or religious opinions of any separate party or sect whatever."

The volume before us is an answer to this appeal; and, both for the sake of national instruction and of the Society, we heartily wish its success. Of the essay itself, we can honestly say it deserves it.

The Rights of Persons, according to the Text of Blackstone, incorporating the Alterations down to the Present Time. By James Stewart, Barrister-at-Law, M.P. 8vo. pp. 532. London, 1839. Spettigue.

To follow in the footsteps, and wear the mantle of Blackstone, is no mean honour; but when we look at the elaboration of his subject, his arrangement, and his style, we think the praise may fairly be accorded to Mr. Stewart. Truly does he observe that "The 'Commentaries' of Mr. Justice Blackstone, as a work designed to give information on the laws of this country, may be considered in two lights. They may be viewed as a methodical and elegant statement of what the law was about sixty years ago, when they received the last corrections of their author, or as an authentic account of the law at the present day. In the former light their use remains unimpaired, and they must be read with profit by all who wish to study the legal history of Great Britain; but it is obvious that,

and it also appears that he had not himself examined the bony fragments to which he alludes. Had these come to his hands, it is probable that he might have been able to ascertain such specific and distinct characters as should have served to satisfy him that the teeth in his possession were not only by report, but in fact, parts of those skeletons from among which they appear to have been picked up. We may believe that they were conveyed to Lima chiefly on account of their more portable size; while the other more unwieldy bones would have been considered too heavy for being removed so far, by persons who may not have known their scientific value to the geologist.—Translator."

* Founded in 1782, and located in St. George's Fields. This truly benevolent institution, it should be known to All, "receives the very pitiable and destitute children of persons who have undergone the extreme sentence of the law, or are sentenced to transportation; also juvenile criminal boys instructed by magistrates or others, as likely to be reformed. The boys are fully instructed in some of the following trades, &c., either as tailors, shoe-makers, printers, bookbinders, or reapers, according to their respective abilities. The girls must be the offspring of convicts, but are not admissible if morally vicious or depraved."

in the latter, they have lost much of their original value."

To remedy this acknowledged discrepancy, the author has incorporated more recent legislation with the text of his great precursor, and thus produced (not by the contradictory method of notes, emending or pointing out alterations in the original) an entire and uniform work in the law as it now exists, and as it concerns the rights of persons, is clearly laid down and explained.

Having said this much on a volume, the nature of which forbids quotation, we shall conclude by expressing an earnest wish that other branches of the law were simplified in a similar manner, and brought within the common sense of those whom their administration affects in every condition of social life.

America and the American Church. By the Rev. H. Caswell, M.A., Rector of Christ Church, Madison, Indiana, &c. &c. Pp. 368. London, 1839. Rivingtons.

HAVING in a review of another work last week taken comprehensive notice of the state of religion in America, we need only state of this volume, that it contains an account of the Episcopalian or Church of England establishment, which consists of about half a million laity, and a thousand clergymen.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

TUESDAY, March 12. Dr. Truman on 'Organic Matter.'—The lecturer commenced by pointing out the elementary substances forming all the materials of which this planet is composed, observing that the term "simple," applied by chemists to these substances, is not the most logical which could be found; because, though they cannot be decomposed at present, it does not follow, as science advances, that they may never be resolved into other elements, and found to be compound bodies. On this account, it would be more correct to name them "undecomposed," instead of simple substances. Inorganic and organic matter are formed of these substances united in different proportions. Organic matter contains fewer of them than inorganic, but the former is more complex than the latter. The analyses given by chemists of organic matter cannot be received as actually correct, because they cannot be proved to be so by synthesis. In fact, the remarkable peculiarities belonging to organic matter render it probable that it is altogether of a nature *sui generis*, though it may be dependent on inorganic matter for its existence. Geology tends to shew that the formation of organic was subsequent to that of inorganic matter, and that organic matter has gone through a series of changes from the simplest kinds, until it has been brought to the complicated condition in which it is presented to us at present. Man and the simies are the representations of the most complicated forms organic matter has yet assumed on this planet. A similar kind of complication has also taken place in vegetable organic matter. The phenomena manifested by organic matter when undergoing decomposition, clearly demonstrate that it possesses properties peculiar to itself. No infusoria are to be met with in inorganic substances whilst undergoing decomposition, and yet these animalculæ always make their appearance in organic matter when running into that state. In living beings, the elements of which they are composed are collected together either in a fluid or solid state. The solids predominate generally in vegetables, whilst the fluids are ordinarily most abundant in animals.

The human body, when deprived of its fluid particles, may be reduced from the weight of one hundred and twenty pounds to that of only twelve pounds. Some marine animals, as medusæ, contain such an excess of fluid, that though, in a natural state, many of them weigh from twenty-five to thirty pounds each, yet, after desiccation, they will not weigh more than five or six grains. The presence of fluid seems to be indispensable to the manifestation of vitality. The *rotifer redivivus*, when dried, appears to be inanimate; but, after being supplied with a single drop of water, it soon exhibits the ordinary vital phenomena peculiar to it. It is doubtful whether the different quantities of the elementary substances found in organised beings can always be accounted for, by supposing they are introduced with the food. The present occasion does not admit of taking into consideration those observations which render it probable that many of the simple substances of chemists may be converted from one into another through the agency of vital action. At the same time, it is certain that many living beings are endowed with organs specially destined for the evolution, or accumulation, if not for the secretion, of the imponderable substances. Thus light is given out from the animalculæ, causing the phosphorescence of the sea; from the glow-worm, the *pilgora lanteraria*, the *elater noctilucus*, &c. Electricity also is evolved by the torpedo, *silurus*, and *gymnotus electricus*. These imponderable substances are produced by parts of a peculiar organisation, and not by the entire bodies of these creatures; and there is almost as much reason to regard these parts as organs for the secretion of light and electricity, as that the liver is for the secretion of the bile, or the salivary glands are for the secretion of the saliva. If we are correct in assuming that these imponderable elements are produced by vital action, then, by analogy, it may be inferred that some of the grosser and ponderable elements in organic beings are occasionally produced in a similar manner. The worthy Doctor occasionally introduced anecdotes connected with electricity, &c.; and thereby rendered a lecture which was truly scientific, truly amusing. He also produced a cast, which had been taken from the head of a man who had recently met with an accident in Birmingham. He remarked, in the most delicate manner, that he had not the least intention of disturbing the faith of phrenologists, but that the construction of the skull, which he particularly explained, together with the effect of the blow on it, tended to shake their opinions, as he thought, in a considerable degree. The Society met on Wednesday evening on ordinary business. The claims for premiums in polite arts were exhibited, and will, we understand, be determined next week.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

MR. FORSTER in the chair.—Read, a notice of the Birds of Iceland, by George Townsend, Esq. This communication was accompanied by specimens of the birds, which formed part of a collection made in Iceland in 1837, by Mr. W. Proctor, the sub-curator of the museum in the Durham University. Faber enumerates eighty-four species of birds as natives of the island, of which twenty are land and sixty are water birds. From an accurate examination of the skins brought home by Mr. Proctor, Mr. Fox is inclined to think that several of the species hitherto regarded as identical with those of other countries, will turn out to be distinct and peculiar to Iceland. Among the

specimens exhibited were the ringed guillemot, the Iceland grouse (*Tetrao Islandorum*), and the Greenland golden eye (*Clangula Barrovii*). Mr. Proctor was not so fortunate as to procure a specimen of the great Auk (*Aleia impennis*), which has now become extremely rare, and is only to be met with on some small islands which lie at the distance of several miles off the southwest point of Iceland. Read, also, an elaborate paper by W. Valentine, Esq. 'On the Structure and Developement of the Reproductive Organs of *Pilularia globulifera*. Among the presents were several Nos. of Dr. Wight's "Illustrations of Indian Botany." The work is printed at Madras, and the coloured lithographic prints of plants are highly creditable to the native artists employed.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

SIR C. LEMON, Bart., in the chair.—The paper read was, 'An Account of the recent Progress and present Extent of Manufactures in Prussia, and of the Trade of the Prussian Commercial Union in Manufactured Goods.' From German official documents. The progress of any nation in those branches of industry which have added so much to the power and wealth of this country, and which afford employment to so large a portion of its population, must at all times be a subject of interest; but the importance which has lately been attached to the extension of manufactures in foreign countries by the advocates of a change in the corn-laws, will probably confer additional value upon the following information respecting the present condition of those interests in the Prussian states. It is chiefly the competition of Germany and Switzerland that our manufacturers profess to fear; and it is in those countries that the greatest impulse has recently been given to native industry. The communication goes on to notice the statistics of the cultivation of flax, and its manufacture into yarn, cotton-spinning, wool-spinning, silk-throwing, manufacture of linens, manufacture of woollens, and manufacture of cottons. Each of these heads is illustrated by copious tables of exports and imports, indicating a prosperous state of trade and commerce. We can only find room for the following table, which exhibits the imports and exports of cotton goods in the Prussian dominions alone, upon an average of the three years, 1829 to 1831. Of the Prusso-Hessian league, consisting of Prussia and the two Hesses, in the years 1832 and 1833; and of the whole Union, in the three following years:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Exports over Imports.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Average of 1829-31	1,434,292	2,174,694	740,402
.. 1832	1,671,432	3,085,574	1,384,122
.. 1833	1,539,665	2,733,369	1,224,284
.. 1834	1,598,330	3,846,346	7,249,066
.. 1835	1,630,017	9,590,873	7,960,856
.. 1836	1,594,484	9,948,324	8,353,840

Thus, throughout the whole period the importations have remained nearly stationary. The exports, however, increased to some extent in 1832 and 1833, which was principally owing to the accession of the Grand Duchy of Hesse to the Union, as the exports from that state amounted to about 354,000 lbs. in each year; but an increased exportation took place at the same time from the Prussian dominions, particularly from the Rhenish provinces. In 1834, however, the exports rose in the proportion of 3 to 1, compared with the average of 1832-33, and of 4 to 1 compared with 1829-31. This was chiefly caused by the accession of the kingdom of Saxony. At the anniversary meeting held this day week, Earl Fitz-

william in the chair, a very satisfactory report was read, and officers for the ensuing year were elected.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MARCH 13. Rev. Dr. Buckland, President, in the chair.—A paper was read 'On the Geology of the north-western part of Asia Minor, from the Peninsula of Cyzicus, on the Coast of the Sea of Marmora, to Koola; with a Description of the Katakekaumene,' by W. J. Hamilton, Esq. Sec. G. S. The line of route taken by Mr. Hamilton from Cyzicus (lat. 40° 22') ascends the valley of the river Macetus to its sources, near Simaul, then crosses the Demirgi chain (lat. 39° 5'), and afterwards passes by Karskeut and Selendi to Koola, on the eastern confines of the Katakekaumene, the whole of the distance being about 170 miles. The principal physical feature of the district is the Demirgi range, which extends from Pergammon on the west, to the lofty mountain of Ak Dagh, or Shapkan Dagh, on the east; but the country is intersected by various ranges of hills sometimes exceeding 1200 feet in height. The geological structure of Mr. Hamilton's line of route is simple, being composed of only schistose rocks with saccharine marble, a compact limestone resembling the scaglia of Italy and Greece, tertiary sandstones and limestones, granite, peperite, trachyte, basalt, and other igneous rocks. Between Kespit and the foot of the Demirgi hills are also remains of an ancient lacustrine deposit; and in the valleys are extensive alluvial accumulations. The schists consist of mica slate, gneiss, and clay-slate, and they occur chiefly near Cyzicus. The strata dip at high angles from the granite, to the protrusion of which the inclination is apparently due. The marble was formerly worked to a very great extent; and Cyzicus was indebted to it for being ranked among the most splendid cities of antiquity. The compact limestone, resembling scaglia, was observed only at the foot of the hills north of Maniyas. It is associated with beds of shale, and is apparently destitute of organic remains. The micaceous sandstone is extensively distributed south of Maniyas, also towards the eastern extremity of the Demirgi mountains, at the point crossed by Mr. Hamilton, and between it and Koola. The stone is fissile, and alternates in some localities with shale: the beds are occasionally much dislocated by the protrusion of igneous rocks. About half-way between the pass over the Demirgi range and Koola, the upper beds of the sandstone alternate with the lower layers of an overlying deposit of peperite. Mr. Hamilton has no doubt that this formation belongs to the one which himself and Mr. Strickland examined between Ghiediz and Ushah. The white tertiary limestone, Mr. Hamilton considers to belong to the great lacustrine formation, which occupies so large a portion of Asia Minor; but within the range of country described in this memoir, it appears to be totally devoid of organic remains. It is sometimes soft, resembling chalk, but at its contact with the igneous rocks it becomes hard; and at one line of junction a layer of serpentine was interposed between the two formations. Thin beds of white opaque flints, resembling those of the lacustrine limestone of Auvergne, were noticed by the author a little south of Kefst. The strata have been in many places very much dislocated by the protrusion of trachyte. The granite was observed only near Cyzicus, and in the Demirgi chain. It is composed of quartz, felspar, and mica, but it contains large masses

of hornblende, and is traversed by veins of felspar. The schistose rocks are thrown off by it near Cyzicus at high angles, and with a quâquâversal inclination. The peperite, or volcanic tuff, appears to be of intermediate age, between the micaceous sandstone and the white limestone, as it rests upon the former, and is overlaid by the latter. It is distinctly stratified, and varies much in character, being sometimes earthy, occasionally conglomeratic, and not unfrequently hard or semicrystalline. It is chiefly developed south of the Demirgi range. The beds are generally horizontal or slightly inclined; but they are disturbed where igneous rocks have been protruded through them. Trachyte and basalt rise to the surface at many places between the Demirgi hills and Koola, disturbing the stratified deposits, and producing changes both in their structure and hardness. On the banks of the Hermus basalt overlies the white limestone. Mr. Hamilton also described the hot springs situated about seven miles to the east of Singerli at the northern foot of the Demirgi chain. Their temperature he conceives to be equal to that of boiling water; and they are discernible at a considerable distance, by the great volumes of steam which they throw off. Extensive accumulations, several feet thick, of a white fibrous sediment, occur around the mouth of the springs. A strong sulphurous smell accompanies the emission of the water; but at a point where the stream had lost enough of its temperature to be tasted, no peculiar flavour was perceived. After turning several mills, and at the distance of a mile and a half from the spring head, the water is collected and used by the Turks as a warm bath. Copious hot springs are likewise thrown out near the Katakekaumene. The water is tasteless, and the temperature 123° of Fahrenheit, but no sediment is deposited around the mouths. Mr. Hamilton then proceeded to describe the Katakekaumene, a district singularly interesting on account of its extinct volcanoes, and its great resemblance to Auvergne. He first visited it in company with Mr. Strickland, who laid an account of some portions of it before the Geological Society in 1836. The district extends from Koola westward about nineteen miles, and for about eight miles from north to south. The formations included within this area are the schistose rocks and crystalline limestone, which occur near Cyzicus, the white lacustrine limestone, basalt and lavas of two perfectly distinct ages. The leading physical features of the district are ridges of schistose rocks with intervening alluvial plains. On the former are seated all the ancient volcanic cones or craters, and on the latter the modern. This important distinction, Mr. Hamilton is of opinion, may be explained on the supposition, that the elevation of the schistose ridges produced fissures through which, as lines of least resistance, the first eruption of lava found vent. That these openings becoming afterward plugged up by the cooling of injected molten matter, the schistose ridges were rendered so compact, that when the volcanic forces again became active, the line of least resistance was transferred to the valleys. Of the relative periods when the eruptions took place, no opinion can be formed. The more modern must have been long anterior to tradition, though the streams of lava present all the ruggedness of the most recent coulées of Etna and Vesuvius, and the craters preserve, to a great extent, their form and internal cavities. The more ancient lava-currents are covered by sedimentary matter, and are, therefore, considered by Mr. Hamilton to have been

at one period covered with water. They have also lost, in part, their form, the craters being nearly obliterated. The paper concluded with a comparison between this part of Asia Minor and Auvergne. 1. The great ancient volcanic group of Mont Dor, the Cantal, and Mont Mezen, Mr. Hamilton conceives is represented by Ak Dagh, Morad Dagh, the trachytic hills east of Takmak, Hassan Dagh, and Mont Argus. 2. That the more modern volcanic period of central France may be compared with the Katakekaumene, both as respects the composition of the lavas, their arrangement at different levels, and the cones being scattered, not collected in great mountain masses. 3. With respect to the disposition of comparatively recent volcanoes being coincident with the strike of the granitic axis, from the interior of which they have burst forth, Mr. Hamilton stated that the Katakekaumene affords additional illustration. 4. In Central France, as well as the district described in this paper, there are deposits of lacustrine limestone, which have been separated, by the action of bodies of water, into table lands, surmounted by beds of basalt and lava; and in both countries currents of lava of more modern date have flowed into the intervening valleys. In two points, however, there are differences between the volcanic phenomena of Asia Minor and Central France. In the latter, streams of igneous products may be traced from the most ancient system of cones, or that of Mont Dore; but in the former none have yet been discovered which issued from Ak Dagh, or the other contemporaneous volcanic mountains. In France, also, trachytic eruptions took place during the deposition of the lacustrine limestone; but in the Katakekaumene, they appear to have preceded the deposition of the white limestone, or are associated with only its lowest beds.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

AT the anniversary meeting, the Society's Gold Medal was awarded to the Hon. J. Wrottesley, for his Catalogue of the right ascension of 1318 stars. Sir John Herschel was elected president, in the room of Mr. Baily.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

FRIDAY, 16th. Mr. Gray, President, in the chair.—Various donations to the library were announced. Read 'Observations on the Species of *Tilia*, Natives of England; with Notices of some remarkable aged individual Trees,' by Mr. Edwin Lees. It has been questioned by botanists whether any species of the genus *Tilia* of Linnaeus, commonly called the lime-tree, has any legitimate claim to be considered a native of England. Gerarde, in his "Herbal," published in 1597, says, "The female linden-tree," advertizing to the small-leaved lime, "groweth in some woods in Northamptonshire, also near Colchester, and in many places amongst the highway leading from London to Hemingham, in the county of Essex." Evelyn, also, in his "Sylv," distinctly remarks that, "Our woods do in some places spontaneously produce them (the lime); and though of somewhat a smaller leaf, yet altogether as good apt to be civilised, and made more florid." These statements might justly seem to remove any doubts as to the real indigenousness of the *Tilia*. Yet Withering, nevertheless, says, "In regard to its claim to be strictly indigenous, we consider it may rank among the *Dubia*." Mr. H. C. Watson, in his "New Botanist Guide," attaches the opprobrious asterisk to its name. Sir J. E. Smith, in the "English Flora," taking up Ray's remark, "that he could not

meet with it indubitably wild," seems to infer that it must have been naturalised. And Mr. Loudon, in the "Arboretum Britannicum," following up the dictum of Daines Barrington, excludes the lime from his indigenous list; though afterwards he admits, that, from a fact furnished him by Mr. Lees, his doubts as to the tree being truly indigenous have considerably diminished. Mr. Lees considers the lime indigenous to Worcestershire, the borders of Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, and South Wales: and agrees with Mr. S. T. Gray ("Natural Arrangement of British Plants") in admitting two as natives of England:—*Tilia grandifolia*, or broad-leaved linden; and *Tilia petiolaris*, or small-leaved linden. Many very interesting "observations" were brought forward in support of his opinion. The paper also enlarged upon the characteristics and localities of the several species of Europe. In England, the lime has given a name to places. According to Mr. Lees, Linteridge, near Bromsgrove, Gloucestershire, derives its name from the linden-trees there, which is, in fact, the more common and proper appellation; and also a parish, called Linwood, in Lincolnshire, where the small-leaved linden is said to grow. Gerarde calls the tree the lime, or linden-tree, and says, "The bark is brownish, very smooth, and plaine on the outside; but that which is next to the timber is white, moist, and tough, serving very well for ropes, trases, and halters." Evelyn also says, that "Even the coarsest membrane or slivers of the tree, growing 'twixt the bark and the main body, they now twist into bass-ropes." Linnaeus, in his "Lachesis Lapponica," mentions the same substance as forming nets. The term "lime," as it would seem to be only a corruption of "lime," ought not to be applied to the *Tilia*, particularly as an edible fruit is so called, and linden is preferable, as the original appellation, used also on the Continent. The wood of the *Tilia* has been universally celebrated for its soft, close-grained, and light character; hence its employment in the exuberant carvings of fruit and foliage common to the drawing-rooms of the Louis Quatorze era, and its more modern application, as the chief material of the elegant Tonbridge ware. From the sap, drawn off in spring, sugar may be manufactured, and a substance, simulating chocolate, has been prepared from the pounded fruit. The flowers are exceedingly mellifluous; and an infusion of them has been recommended as an antispasmodic. Clothing is made of the bark; also are made tiles for cottages; and of the twigs, baskets, cradles, &c., so that Pliny's expression may still be justified, *Tilia ad mille usus potesta*. The character and appearance of the linden-tree in its old age, and its historical and poetical associations, which, it was stated, formed the other portion of Mr. Lees' very interesting paper, will be read and described at the next meeting.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

FRIDAY, 15th. Mr. Cowper, "On Pottery."—The basis of pottery is clay; in the lower processes, a mixture of one with another; in the higher, with sand or ground flint. The preparation of the clay and flint for mixing, and their subsequent treatment, previously to being fit for the potter, formed the first part of the illustration. The stages we will do little more than enumerate; and first of the flint, because more numerous. Flint being calcined, and placed in water, splits in all directions. These small pieces are then stamped with heavy weights to a coarse powder, which is afterwards ground in a mill with water to a consistency

of cream. The clay is also reduced to a similar substance, by the process of plunging and by the stirring-mill. The flint cream should weigh 32 oz., and the clay-cream 24 oz. to the pint. They are then mixed and sieved, and afterwards boiled to evaporate the water, being at the same time well stirred to allow the air to escape. For the latter purpose also, when the clay thus produced is cold, it is cut through, lifted in the hands of the workman, and again thrown down on the other portion; this is called slapping, or wedging, and intended to destroy any remaining air-bubbles. The clay is then stoved and thus mellowed. The potter's wheel, the ancient Egyptian, and the modern, the spindle and wheel being the principle of both, were next described; one of the latter kind, temporarily constructed, was practically explained; and the potter present, with a lump of clay thrown on the wheel before him, turned by his foot on a treadle and crank, fashioning the clay with his hands, raising and depressing it, hollowing it with his thumbs and moulding it with his fingers pressed against the outer sides of the rapidly revolving plastic materials, to which he also now and then applied the edge of a thin plate of steel acting as a scraper, and cut to fit the exterior of the form required, made first a bowl. He then converted the bowl into a basin, and the basin again into a jar, a common pickle jar, and the jar again, without having moved either from the wheel, into a bottle (a common stone bottle it will be understood, as the clay he used was that prepared for the ordinary stone ware). And again, to shew his power over the docile nature of his handiwork of the thing he had made, he changed, widened out, the bottle into an open bell-shaped vessel. In this he was much assisted by the centrifugal force consequent upon the revolving motion, which, when Mr. Cowper pointed out, the potter surrendered the last form to its influence, it widened and widened until it at last split, and was thrown from the wheel and was destroyed. We had watched the proceedings so intently, and felt so much interest in the inanimate creation thus given up to the destroyer, and returning to its former condition, that thoughts were busy within us. But even whilst they flashed through our mind, the potter, still turning on, had, with another lump of clay, raised another form, and a new interest was excited. Such is life! The new form was a jug, an ordinary stone jug, without a handle, and not a horse nor a huntsman, nor a hound nor a Toby Philpott, ornamenting its round sides. These, however, were soon added. A handle was moulded in a chalk mould, and the figures on a chalk die; the latter, smacked down on a lump of clay, left on it the clay which had been previously pressed into its figure. But how was this design in relief to be transferred to the jug to which already the handle had been fixed with water and a sponge? It was cut, from the lump, as thin as possible, preserving the figures, with a wire, and then stuck on the sides of the jug by the simple sponging process. All of the ornamented jug thus formed of parts being merely clay and water, when fired became one substance. To produce the shades of the "brown jug," ochre is used; and to give it its polish or glaze, common salt. But here a simple and interesting chemical action takes place. A coating of glass, which the polish really is, is to be placed on the surface of the jug: no sponging process, no gumming, no glueing, nor cementing, could effect this. Chemical combination alone could accomplish it. Thus then is it produced. Salt is com-

posed of muriatic acid and soda, glass of silica and soda. By the heat of the kiln in which the jugs and salt are placed, the salt is volatilised, the muriatic acid goes off, while the soda remains, and combines with the silica already in the jug, and produces on its surface that glossy, glassy appearance, which is in fact, as before stated, a thin coating of glass. The action on the surface of the finer ware is similar; but previously to being fired, instead of salt being placed with it in the kiln, it is dipped in a prepared glaze, or a solution of glassy material. Mr. Cowper treated, in a lucid and illustrative manner, the whole of his subject, embracing further the more finished processes of the finer ware and porcelain, the useful and ornamental. He dwelt on form, and exhibited many beautiful antique vases. He shewed, by a diagram, that the oval was the basis of their figure, almost all being oval opened out. Mr. Reinagle has treated of this fully, but Mr. Cowper considered that he had carried his principle too far, in defining all elegant forms to be modifications of that figure. Besides the antique models, were exhibited some very varied and beautiful mosaic and tessellated slabs for floors or panelings, a new invention and application of Messrs. Singer and Potter, by which Mr. Cowper stated the admired charms of the Alhambra may be rivalled.

UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.

MONDAY, 18th.—First evening meeting of the season, Major Shadwell Clarke, V.P. in the chair. Numerous presents were announced, and exhibited also for inspection the model of an ingeniously contrived portable boat, by Mr. Dunne. The papers read were, 1st. No. 1, of a series of communications 'On the Longitudes of the principal Places on the Globe,' by Lieut. H. Raper, R.N. 2d. 'On a new Method of connecting and disconnecting the Paddle-wheel of a Steamer,' by Captain Ramsay, R.N.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, March 14.—The following degrees were conferred—
Masters of Arts.—Rev. W. Cockayne Adams, Balliol College; R. Downes, Trinity College.
Bachelors of Arts.—J. B. P. Dennis, Queen's College; Grand Compounder; I. Nicholl, Exeter College; H. S. Escott, Balliol College.

CAMBRIDGE, March 13.—The following degrees were conferred—

Honorary Masters of Arts.—Lord J. J. R. Manners, second son of the Duke of Rutland, Sir H. Dryden, Bart., Trinity College.

Bachelors of Divinity.—Rev. G. Johnson, Christ's College; Head Master of Barnstaple Grammar School; Rev. G. Ingram, Queen's College.

Masters of Arts.—R. Wilson, Trinity College; E. Shortland, Pembroke College; C. Spencer, Christ's College.

Bachelors in Physic.—T. Barton, Queen's College.

Bachelors of Arts.—T. Thring, Trinity College; T. Ridley, Catherine Hall; A. Kemp, Calus College; E. Ridgeway, Jesus College; E. C. Sharpe, J. Bennett, Christ's College.

The Chancellor's Medallists.—The chancellor's two gold medals for the best classical scholars among the commencing Bachelors of Arts of the present year, were on Monday last adjudged to Arthur Shelly Eddis, and John Gorham Maitland, both of Trinity College.—*Cambridge Chronicle*.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

THE Marquess of Northampton in the chair.—Read, 'An Account of the Fall of a Meteoric Stone,' communicated in a letter to Sir John Herschel. The stone fell on the 13th of October last. Some time previous to its falling the air was hot and sultry; a noise like the discharge of artillery was heard; this was followed by the descent of pieces of the stone: when it fell, it was so soft as to be capable of being

cut with a knife. Another account of a similar description of stone, given by Mr. Faraday in a letter to Sir J. Herschel, was likewise read. A paper, by S. B. Howlett, Esq. giving an account of a barometer constructed by him, was also communicated by Sir John Herschel. The advantages of this barometer must be obvious, when it is mentioned, that no correction or adjustment for zero is required. A communication, by Mr. Talbot, describing a new kind of sensitive paper for photogenic drawing, was then read, which shall appear in next *Literary Gazette*. Mr. Talbot then mentioned, that in his memoir on the *New Art*, read lately before the Royal Society, on account of the haste in which it had been written, he had omitted to give the details of a method by which etchings on copper might be successfully imitated. This may be done by covering a sheet of glass with a solution of resin in turpentine, and afterwards smoking it by the flame of a candle; and upon the blacked surface the drawing was made with a needle, or other fine-pointed instrument. A sheet of the sensitive paper being placed over it, a perfect copy was obtained.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

MR. HAMILTON, V.P. in the chair.—Mr. Rosser exhibited a facsimile, by rubbing, of a monumental brass, in Croydon Church, being the effigies of Silvester Gabriel, a clergyman, who died in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. The reading of Mr. Bruce's paper, containing a selection of cases from the proceeding of the privy council in the reign of Edward VI., was concluded. The meetings of the Society were adjourned over Easter to the 11th of April.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Royal Geographical, 8 P.M.; Zoological, 8½ P.M.
Tuesday.—Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.; Geological, 9 P.M.; London Institution, 7 P.M.
Wednesday.—Numismatic, 7 P.M.
Thursday.—Artists' Conversations, 7 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

PHOTOGENIC DRAWING.

FEW discoveries or disclosures have produced so many amateurs in the art and the science of the subject as this, since the announcement of the so-named Daguerreotype. We have done some service in giving honour to Neipce where honour is due, by the disclosures which we have made, and the publication of his claims, for which we were indebted to M. Bauer.* The process of Neipce, or that now shewn by Daguerre, is, however, essentially different from that of Mr. Talbot. Since publicity has been given to the latter of these discoveries, many and important improvements have been made, by Sir J. Herschel and others, among men of science, and by artists, especially engravers; in the hands of two of these, who appear to have simultaneously made the same discovery, it has become an important art. Mr. J. F. Havell, and Mr. Willmore, have, by covering glass with *etching ground* and smoke, sketched designs upon it.† Through the glass thus exposed by the scratches, the photogenic paper receives the light, and the design, which the sun may be said to print, may be multiplied with perfect identity for ever! Designs thus produced will probably become much more com-

* M. Daguerre, we understand, declares that his process is different from that originally pursued with Neipce, and the name Daguerreotype sanctioned by a deed agreed upon between the parties.—*Ed. L. G.*

† See also our Report of the Royal Society.—*Ed. L. G.*

mon, and even more generally applicable than lithography, because all the means are more readily accessible, whilst it will receive its rank as an art, and be excellent in proportion to the skill of the artist, as a draughtsman with the etching needle. The size need no longer be kept down by that of the printing press, as the size of the glass can alone limit the size of the design. This is a real and valuable discovery, applicable to a thousand purposes. It is reported that Mr. Havell, and his brother, the well-known painters, have succeeded in giving some true colours, also, to their productions, by the action of light. Beautiful imitations of washed bistre drawings may be produced, by stopping out the light on the glass by black varnish, which will obstruct the transmission of light in proportion to the thickness with which the varnish is laid on; and specimens like fine mezzotinto prints have been produced by this process. The first report of the discovery in France alarmed the painters from nature; next, the specimens of etched plates and printed impressions alarmed the engravers; this further discovery has replaced it, as an art, in the hands of its professors. But, since the sun has turned printer, we fear that the *devils* will ultimately suffer. It is curious and interesting to hear of scientific men already seeking to apply the process to self-registers of thermometric, barometric, and magnetic variations. We shall watch with interest the new disclosures and applications of this suddenly noised abroad discovery.

The *Suffolk Street Gallery* has its private view to-day, and opens to the public on Monday. We are sorry we cannot give any idea of its qualities, but were not admissible for that purpose: a fact which, in our humble opinion, does not shew absolute wisdom in those most concerned for the success of the exhibition.

THE DRAMA.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—The dull and heavy opera of *Belisario* has been repeated every night without any improvement in the performances: so far for the beginning of the season, more helpless and pafty than usual. But—after Easter, the subscribers and the public are promised Grisi, Lablache, and Rubini, "successively," and no Tamburini at all. If *ennui* be the natural and habitual temperament of the English people (see review of *Aaron Burr*), they need only go to this foreign theatre to enjoy it to the utmost extent.

Covent Garden.—Our prognostication respecting *Riochelieu* has been fulfilled to the letter, and the theatre filled to the top every night it has been repeated; that is to say, every open night. In doing justice to the exertions of the performers, we accidentally omitted to notice the spirited and natural acting of Mr. Howe; and we take this opportunity of doing our duty in that respect. Now that the earlier portions of the play are shortened and condensed, it goes throughout with uninterrupted vigour and effect. The telling points, and they are many, are brought closer together, and the mastery of the Cardinal shines through every act, with a splendour which is the perfection of dramatic character.

Haymarket.—On Monday this delightful little theatre opened with the popular play of *The Love Chase*, with a partially new cast, and new farce, in which Mr. Hill performed. The novelties in the *Love Chase* were Mr. W. Lacy, who played *Master Waller* judiciously, but rather too passively; Miss Mordaunt, who placidly walked through the sweet character of *Lydia*,

looking pretty and interesting, and delivering her *rôle* in an even tone — she is not at present equal to the part ; and Miss Taylor, as *Constance*, for the first time. Of her, we are delighted to speak in terms of the highest commendation ; her conception of the part is faultless — her acting feminine, buoyant, graceful, animated ; in truth, every thing it should be. The dash of sentiment in her description of the pleasures of the chase divests it of all approach to the masculine, and the archness with which she makes "the points" in her dialogue is quite charming. She was warmly applauded throughout the play. The new farce, *A Wife for a Day*, also met with an excellent reception. It was acted with great spirit by Mr. Hill (who kept the house in a roar), Mr. W. Lacy, Mr. Strickland, Mrs. W. Clifford, Mrs. F. Matthews, &c. &c. It is the production of Mr. Bernard. The house has been well filled during the week.

Concerts. — We regret to use the word *last* with regard to concerts, but Mori and Lindley's series ended last week, when the full room plainly said another and another would delight us. On Thursday, Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, and Lucas, held their last quartet meeting ; when, in addition to Mozart, Beethoven, Weber, Himmel, Spohr, and Mendelssohn, a fine musical quartet in C minor was, for the first time, splendidly performed.

VARIETIES.

The Probe, No. I., has started as a periodical of criticism, &c. on the Fine Arts ; and seems to propose being a sort of *Lancet* in that branch of national industry and luxury. It proceeds, *secundum artem*, to denounce the "Art Union," to which it announces its rivalry ; discusses the Nelson models with perfect freedom and dogmatism ; and, as a consequence, asks, "What does the *Literary Gazette* mean by avowing so much subserviency on this important point ? [The decision of the prizes.] Does it abandon its pretensions to critical discernment ? Or why say, 'As this matter may still be considered *sub judice*, we feel much difficulty and delicacy on the subject ?' Is the public to suffer detriment, that a few judges, not of the first water, may be pampered into self-approbation ? Verily, the frankness of the critic in the 'Morning Chronicle' is much to be preferred to this parasitical conduct." Now, though our inquisitor is yet very young, and his mode of asking questions not very polite, we will state, in answer, what the *Literary Gazette* does and does not mean. It does not mean to set itself up, like too many of its brethren of the press, and proclaim, "I am Sir Oracle : when I speak let no dog bark." It does not mean to lend itself to any partisanship upon a public question. It does not mean to disparage the judgment of a set of men, of the taste, cultivation, and acquirements of many of whom it has a very high opinion. It does not mean to interfere in an authoritative, impudent, and dictatorial manner ; as if it was endowed with all the collective wisdom on the subject, and the rest of the world knew nothing about it. It meant, and means, candidly and respectfully to offer its opinions ; and it did state, that it thought the first prize erroneously decided, — the second pre-eminently deserved, — and the third such as, allowing for differences of sentiment in every similar competition, could be well maintained against objections. When the real competition, which is to determine the election for a national design, comes to be dis-

cussed, it will consider it the proper time to say what it has to say, — so that if not a *Probe*, it will not fear the reproach of being *Im-probe*.

Artists' General Benevolent Fund. — H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge, since his return amongst us, seems emulous to follow the example, and fill the place of his royal brothers, York, Kent, and Sussex, in regard to affording his countenance to benevolent and patriotic institutions. When we consider the great benefits derived from the influence of so high a station upon occasions of this kind, we cannot but feel that there is a heavy debt of public gratitude to H. R. H., for having already, this season, presided at several meetings, where objects of national interest were sought to be advanced ; and here, again, in another most praiseworthy instance, undertaken to occupy the chair. The fund, and the Arts generally, will, no doubt, reap great advantage from this act of condescension and kindness.

New Institution for Curing Diseases of the Ear. — A numerous meeting of the friends of this Institution was held in the committee-room, on Friday week, Alderman Sir Matthew Wood in the chair, when a report of the origin and progress of the Institution was read by Mr. Yearsley, from which it appeared that upwards of two hundred poor persons afflicted with deafness had shared its benefits since its opening in July last. Various resolutions were agreed to expressive of the utility of the Institution, and its claims to public patronage and support. Several medical and other gentlemen addressed the meeting, after which thanks were voted to the chairman, and it separated.

Convalescent Hospital for the Destitute Poor of the Metropolis. — A humane improvement is suggested, under this head, for establishing an hospital, such as indicated, about eight or ten miles from town. It was first broached in a letter to the "Morning Herald," and has, it is stated, met with so much approbation, that a Public Meeting is about to be called on the subject, to form a managing committee and receive donations and subscriptions. A statement, circulated by Dr. Garrett Dillon, of Harrow, among other observations, says :—

"The working and productive classes in London, wearied by labour, and occasionally enduring great privations, are constantly suffering from disease of one kind or another ; and, after they are discharged from hospitals or dispensaries, the condition of the poor is the most affliction that can be imagined. When cured of their diseases, or sufficiently relieved in the hospitals, they are turned out to attend as outpatients, that their beds may be filled with new cases, more urgent. For the cure or relief of their diseases, they are generally obliged to undergo a course of treatment that leaves them, though pronounced cured, emaciated and weak, and totally unfit to resume work ; but, on the other hand, requiring, for the recovery of health, good and sufficient food, warm clothing, domestic comforts, with rest and good air. In this situation they are too often without a home, a friend, or a penny. Some of those who are in this predicament either resort to street begging or fall upon the parishes, where, in the best of times, there is but cold comfort for a convalescent : others return to the tainted dens inhabited by the poor, and it is no unusual thing for those who can find employment to undertake hard labour, though unable to work, for the purpose of procuring food. To these causes, and especially to the 'going to work too soon after illness,' I traced, in my investigation of cases, in the St. Pancras Infirmary, an awful mortality, and that amongst the best of the poor, those anxious to live by their own labour. To save the lives and re-establish the health of the poor so afflicted, it has often occurred to me that the establishing and supporting of Convalescent Hospitals, or houses of recovery, in the country, eight or ten miles from town, out of the reach of the common pesthous, would be the most efficacious means. Into such asylums all persons discharged from the London Hospitals, cured or relieved, and considered by a board sitting in London proper objects, should be admitted. The value of climate and change of air in restoring health is so generally known, it would be a loss of time to write a word in dwelling upon the necessity of such retreats for the convalescent London poor. Medical attendants invariably recommend such a course, and if to those in easy circumstances, residing in the best parts of the metropolis, and enjoying domestic comforts and plenty, it is useful, how absolutely necessary must it be to those who live by incessant labour,

under privations such as I have attempted to describe ? The question is, how are such asylums to be established ? I think it probable that parliament would grant a sum of money for the purpose. The metropolitan parishes would, I think, subscribe ; and it is possible that the large endowed hospitals, which are so very rich, would also contribute. It is, however, from the voluntary contributions of the public that most is to be expected ; and, seeing what is derived from that source for the maintenance of medical and other charities in London, the project I propose has, I think, to be brought before the public, with the support of the press, to insure it a liberal and a speedy support. To the press, therefore, I commit the subject, and trust that it will be taken up and promoted by persons of talent, power, and influence, to whom my humble co-operations and a subscription of 100. are offered."

Polytechnic Institution. — On Monday evening, Mr. T. Phillips commenced a course of six lectures on the art of singing and vocal composition, for which task he is most competent, and simple, comprehensive, and elegant in his mode of execution. In order probably to lessen the dryness of a mere lecture, six popular melodies illustrative of the subject were sung by Mr. Phillips and the Misses Brandson, his pupils, with good effect. Some of these were warmly encored. The theatre was well filled, principally with young persons.

Antarctic Expedition. — The output letters state that the *Erebus* and *Terror* have been appointed for the antarctic expedition under the command of the experienced and gallant Sir James Ross, and with Commander F. R. M. Crozier in the latter vessel.

Anti-bridge-toll Association. — The object of this Association is to open Waterloo, Southwark, and Vauxhall bridges, free from tolls. The prospectus dwells on the expediency of free communication between all parts of the capital, and especially between the opposite banks of the Thames, and points out the inadequacy of the un-tolled bridges (Westminster, Blackfriars, and London) for that purpose. It also notices the inequality as well as generally injurious effects of this tax, and concludes with recommending the matter to the consideration of parliament, with "the view of inducing the government to provide a means" for throwing open these metropolitan bridges.

Heads from Nicholas Nickleby. — No. I. (R. T. Yas.) Four imagined portraits of Mr. Dickens's popular characters (Kate, Ralph, Hawk, and Noggs), tolerably characteristic, but not well drawn.

"The March of Intellect." — In this wonder-working age we have at least a miracle a week. The last report is, that M. — has acquired the power of rendering any person *invisible*. Of this more anon.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

In the Press.

The Life and Times of Sir Thomas Gresham, compiled chiefly from Correspondence in Her Majesty's State-Paper Office, with Memoirs of many of his Contemporaries, and some Account of the Royal Exchange and Gresham College, by John W. Burdon.—A Brief Sketch of Native Education in India, under the Superintendence of the Church of Scotland, with Remarks bearing upon the Question of Conversion to Christianity, by James Bryce, D.D.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Illustrations of Mechanics, by the Rev. H. Moseley, M.A., F.R.S., f. cap. 8vo. 8s. being the first portion of "Illustrations of Science," by Professors of King's College and Dublin University : or, an Explanation of the Characters and Differences of the Sciences, for the use of Schools, by J. Lindley, Ph. D., F.R.S., &c. f. cap. 150 Wood-cuts, 6s. — Influence of the Corn Laws, by J. Wilson, Esq. 8vo. 5s. — Digest of Parliamentary Papers, 1837-8. 16s. — C. Lamb's Poetical Works, 3d edit. post 8vo. 6s. — Bunyan's Pilgrim Progress, with a Life by R. Southey, LL.D. new edit. post 8vo. 10s. 6d. — Dr. C. Wordsworth's Greek Grammar, 12mo. 3s. 6d.—Hours of Sadness : or, Instruction and Comfort for the Mourner, f. cap. 5s. — Mrs. Hewitt's Scripture Emblems, 18mo. 3s. — The Bee-keeper's Manual, by H. Taylor, 2d edit. 12mo. 4s. — W. Head's Manual for Apothecaries' Hall, 12mo. 10s. 6d.—Jewell's Apology, translated by the Rev. W. W. Ewbank, 12mo.

3s. 6d.—W. Gurdon's Statutes in Force on Game, 12mo. 4s.—An Old Tale and often Told, post 8vo. 10s. 6d.—Births, Deaths, and Marriages, by the Author of "Sayings and Doings," 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s.—The Greek Treatise on Bridges, Vases, and Arches, Part I, folio, 21s.—Lockhart's Life of Sir W. Scott, new edit. Vol. I, 12mo. 5s.—Poetical Works of Robert Burns, fcap. 6s.—Ritter's Ancient Philology, Vol. III., from the German, by the Rev. J. W. Morrison, 8vo. 18s.—R. Maughan's Law of Attorneys, Statutes, &c. &c. 8vo. 6s.—Simple Stories for the Young, by W. R. Macdonald, 1s. 6d.—Indecision; a Tale founded on a Fact, by Anti-Mannion, square, 1s. 6d.—The Juvenile Naturalist, by the Rev. B. H. Draper, square, 6s. 6d.—The Englishman's Greek Concordance, royal 8vo. 22s. 12s.—Gwilt's Rudiments of Architecture, 2d edition, royal 8vo. 12s.—The Fergusons; or, Woman's Love and the World's Favour, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s.—Popular Songs of Ireland, by T. Crofton Croker, post 8vo. 10s. 6d.—Our Great High Priests, by John Cox, 12mo. 5s.—The Greek Mission; or, Sixteen Years in Malta, Greece, and the Ionian Isles, by the Rev. S. S. Wilson, 8vo. 12s.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1839.

March.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday.. 7	From 23 to 35	29 49 to 29 47
Friday... 8	... 26 ... 37	29 64 ... 29 73
Saturday .. 9	... 16 ... 36	29 80 ... 29 88
Sunday ... 10	15 5 ... 39	30 08 ... 30 12
Monday ... 11	29 ... 42	30 11 ... 30 08
Tuesday ... 12	29 ... 43	30 03 ... 30 02
Wednesday 13	34 ... 51	29 99 ... 29 95

Winds, N.E. and S.E.

Except the 8th and following day, generally cloudy; on the 7th; and rain on the 12th and following day.

Rain fallen, 1 of an inch.

March.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday.. 14	From 37 to 51	29 95 to 29 97
Friday ... 15	44 ... 52	29 79 ... 29 30
Saturday .. 16	41 ... 49	29 25 ... 29 20
Sunday ... 17	35 ... 47	29 05 ... 29 00
Monday ... 18	33 ... 39	29 75 ... 29 85
Tuesday ... 19	24 ... 48	29 03 Stationary
Wednesday 20	33 ... 50	29 94 ... 29 96

Prevailing winds, S.W.

Except the morning of the 16th and 19th, cloudy, with frequent showers of rain.

The heavy fall of rain on the 14th and morning of the 15th, caused the waters to be much out.

Rain fallen, 1 inch, and 1 of an inch.

Edmonton. CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.
Latitude—51° 37' 32" N.
3 51 W. of Greenwich.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

PNEUMATIC TELEGRAPH.

Sir,—Having read in your last publication some details of a proposed telegraph on a pneumatic principle, devised by Mr. Crosley, I beg leave to state that the subject has for some time past occupied much of my attention, and that I have nearly perfected a theory of one which has been completely supported by experiment so far as comparatively limited opportunities have permitted, and which seems to offer considerable and peculiar advantages. It will not, however, presume to make a comparison of its merits with the plans proposed by others, but will content myself with saying, that the mode of working it would be characterized by extreme simplicity, ease, and freedom from complexity of manipulation, and is calculated to supply an instant and desideratum in particular instances, when applied to railways.

I beg leave, therefore, to say, that I have a two-fold purpose in addressing you promptly on the subject; first, as you have, in the notice above alluded to, called attention strongly to it, to invite gentlemen practically interested therein to allow me an opportunity of putting myself in communication with them upon it; and, secondly, to avoid the appearance, at any future development of my plan, of my ideas having merely followed in the wake of others, while, in point of fact, they have been concurrent with them; and at the same time I wish to observe, that, although a very favourable opinion of it has been expressed by one or two scientific gentlemen to whom I have submitted it, my chief reason for not giving immediate publicity to its details arises from a desire that in so doing I should have it in my power to present it in as perfect a form as possible, which can only result from having ample opportunities of testing its powers on a scale of sufficient magnitude.—I am, &c.

J. S. TEMPLETON.
"Vindicator" is under consideration. If the subject is taken up, it should be done in all its relations, and not partially.

We do not know the edition of Virgil mentioned by "Amicus," but conceive, by the date, that it is of no great value. The supplement, by Mafel Vegio, as well as the smaller pieces he mentions, were printed very commonly in the older editions of this poet. As some of our readers may know more of this particular edition, we add its title, "Pub. Virgili Maronis Opera, Pauli Manutii Annotationibus illustrata, &c. Leovindus, apud Abrahamum Radam, 1614."

The cards of the Quadrille and Concert Institute have twice reached us too late. It is a pity musical people do not know how to keep time.

JOURNAL OF THE BELLES LETTRES.

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The Picture now engraving, by Mr. Giller, for the Subscribers of last year (who are entitled to one copy for each Guinea subscribed), is "The Carmelite Monk shewing the Relics in the Sacristy of the Church of Rome." The Work, which was first exhibited in Rome, was selected from the Exhibition of the Royal Academy, at the price of 12 Guineas, by Benjamin Bond Cabel, Esq., the holder of a prize of 25s. at the last exhibition. The engraving, it is hoped, will be in the hands of Subscribers in the course of the month of March.

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